Pioneer

Board Meets at School

The School was proud and excited to recently host the South Dakota Board of Regents meeting on-campus. They were even willing to pose for a picture with our mascot, Sir Black Beary!

Regents: Harvey C. Jewett, Terry Baloun, Patrick Weber, Randy Schaefer, James Hansen, Randall Morris, (front) President Kathryn Johnson holding Sir Black Beary and Executive Director Jack Warner

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Family Weekend July 7-8, 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

The Outreach Consultants are planning for the 2nd Annual Family Weekend. This is the weekend that precedes our second session of summer school, so your child can be here and ready to start the 4th week. Plan to arrive by noon on July 7 and depart at noon on the 8. We will have activities for the whole family, guest speakers, hands-on experiences, and much more. Look for more information in the future.
Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired News

The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1978 with the purpose of expanding social, recreational, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Foundation has an existing endowment that generates income to allow contributions to be given year after year. You can support students who are blind or visually impaired by making an immediate impact on the opportunities and enrichment activities in one of the following ways.

Memberships: Become a member!

- **Sustaining Member**: (voting) Annual contribution of $50 or more
- **Lifetime Member**: (voting) Contributions of $500 or more in a one-time payment or the installment option
- **Patron**: (non-voting) Donation of any amount is appreciated.
- **Bequest/Memorial**: Remember your loved ones or friends with a memorial.
- **Devise of Assets**: Share your real estate and/or investments.

For more information contact: South Dakota Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401; toll free at 1-888-275-3814.

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**Board Officers**

President: Ms. Dawn Brush
Vice President: Mr. Bruce Johnson
Treasurer: Mr. Roland Pond
Secretary: Mr. Lonald L. Gelhaus

**Members**

Mr. Tom Agnitsch
Mr. Joel Albrecht
Ms. Sharon Grote
Ms. Dawn LaMee
Mr. Rich Merriman
Mrs. Jane Ann Rayman
Dr. Curt Wischmeier
Dr. Marjonie Kaiser: Ex-Officio

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**New Foundation Members (9/1/11- 3/1/12)**

**Lifetime**

Ted Fowler, Aberdeen SD
Sherron Grote, Aberdeen SD
Roland and Rita Pond, Aberdeen SD
Carl and Sheryl Perry, Aberdeen SD
Ophthalmology Associates, Aberdeen SD

**Sustaining and Patrons**

Hanson-Moran Eye Clinic, Watertown SD
Allen Haier OD, Sioux Falls SD
Dallas Wilkinson OD, Hot Springs SD
Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, Aberdeen SD
House of Glass, Aberdeen SD
Patrick and Ruth Coughlin, Aberdeen SD
Schwan Welding & Boiler Repair, Aberdeen SD
Northwestern Energy, Aberdeen SD
Chuck and Teresa Timanus, Reston VA
Nancy Corwin, Beresford SD
Mark and Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen SD
Student Loan Finance Corp, Aberdeen SD
American News, Aberdeen SD
Progressive Financial Services, Aberdeen SD
Target, Aberdeen SD
Plains Commerce Bank, Aberdeen SD
Chrysler Center, Aberdeen SD
Ronald Rossknecht, Rapid City SD
Lori Kelsey, Mitchell SD
Aberdeen Lioness Club, Aberdeen SD
Jerry and Marie Topp, Fargo ND
Wilbert and Anne Werre, Belle Fourche SD
Sharon Lee, Aberdeen SD
Gailand Fischer, Redfield SD
John Cronen, Bakersfield CA
Louis and Joyce Brush, Clark SD
Jeff and Erin Horstmeyer, Sioux Falls SD

**Memorial for Burlene Berg**

Charles Berg, Groton SD

**Memorial for Otto Andrew Vogel**

Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Mackenzie Heemeyer**

Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Doris Ann Atteberry**

Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Stacy Richardson**

Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Kay Clifford**

Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Joe Cronk**

Jane Ann Rayman, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Jerry Gibson**

Christine, Gypsy & Ronny Andrus/JJ Walter & Peter Metz, Phillip SD

**Thank You!**

In appreciation for 12 years of generous support of the Foundation, Charles Clark of Aberdeen was presented a plaque from Foundation President Dawn Brush.

Not pictured, but also recognized, was Ted Fowler of Aberdeen for 4 years of board service and Dave Graf for 3 year of board service.
Welcome! We are pleased to welcome: Ben Bohlander, Senior Maintenance Worker, Susan Egging, Outreach Vision Consultant for western South Dakota, Heidi Hagen, Food Service Supervisor, Juanita Misslitz, Cook, and Sue Spenst, Residential Child Care Worker.

New Faces
We welcomed NSU students Kyla VanDemHemel, Jami Whitney, Carlee Sanders, and Amy Reyes all doing a variety of work with our students and staff. Elizabeth Maunu, Jennifer Anderson and Amanda Arendsee, NSU students completed their Jr. Field Experiences with us. NSU students Kelsey Sandmeier and Amanda Lacher, did their student teaching in both Mrs. Peterson’s and Mrs. Holcomb’s classrooms.

In Remembrance
On October 5, 2011, we lost a dear friend and colleague, Kay Clifford, in our Food Service Program for the last 10 years including as supervisor for 2 years. Kay always strived to serve meals and snacks “the kids would enjoy” and was open to ideas and to help our students with their many dietary needs and special requests for school activities.

Retiring!
John Rieck was presented a clock by his supervisor Pete Peterson upon his retirement after working 30 years as a member of our maintenance staff. John will be remembered for always making sure the school and the student’s “home away from home” was a safe and pleasant place.

Congratulations!
In a surprise announcement at the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce’s Community Champions Luncheon Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Kaiser was honored with the “Woman of Spirit” Award. The award honors a woman from the Aberdeen area who has attained the highest level of professional excellence in her business or profession and has devoted time and energy to the community.

Goodbye
We say good-bye to Grandma Cecilia Imbery who joined us the last two years from the Experience Works Program. She was a wonderful lady and one-of-a-kind!

Deaf-Blind Training
Pictured is Darla Atsma, Deaf-Blind Family Specialist; Linda Alsop, Presenter; Rosanne Malsom, Deaf Coordinator; Lorri Peterson, Instructor; Rose Moehring, Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator; and Jeanie Schmidt, Intervener (front) attended the Intervention Strategies for Children who are Deaf-Blind and/or have Significant Disabilities Workshop in Fargo, ND earlier in the school year. Linda Alsop, Director of Deaf-Blind programs at the SKI-HI Institute in Utah shared a great deal of information on techniques for successfully working with students with unique needs. An additional day was added to the training specifically for South Dakotans to receive one-on-one feedback and a question and answering session from Linda and other professionals.
Student Council leadership, committee representatives and members include: Nicholas Bruhn (President), April Dominick (Vice-President & Wellness), Jeremy Neuheisel (Secretary), Kendra Terkildsen (Arts & Special Activities), and Emery Long Crow (Steering). Other members are: Courtland Collins, Malikhi Hansen, Shane Hoffman, Raydon Johnson, Kelly Jorgensen, Tylor Killspotted, Michael McMillen, Shay Peters, and John Sauer.

Student News and Notes
Our students are very busy and filled the year.
- They enjoyed a day at Storybook Land riding the train, carousel, and the balloon;
- participated in the Community Clean-up project;
- enjoyed a day at Sica Hollow;
- enjoyed a day at Thunder Road riding the go-carts;
- enjoyed a fun Halloween Movie Marathon;
- attended the Fraternal Order of Police’s concert;
- attended the Downtown Music Festival;
- attended activities at the YAPAtorium;
- enjoyed an evening for FUN with the members of the NSU Football players and “Thunder” the mascot;
- attended Music Concert at NSU & Aberdeen Central;
- attended the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities Awards Luncheon;
- attended the Kiwanis Club Ice Cream Social;
- attended the Fallout Art Show and party at the Red Rooster Coffee House;
- attended the NESD Celtic Fair;
- attended the Living Christmas Tree Concert;
- enjoyed a Christmas supper out on the town;
- helped the Aberdeen Lioness Club with the concession stand;
- enjoyed an Aberdeen Lions, Lioness, NSU Clubs Christmas party;
- attended the Aberdeen Lions Club sponsored community Christmas program;
- enjoyed “Ringing Bells” for the Salvation Army Red Kettle program at Kesslers;
- purchased gift items and packaged them into two shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child;
- purchased gifts for the Secret Santa Tree;
- enjoyed the Aberdeen Men’s Chorus Concert;
- enjoyed making gifts at Christmas Sharing;
- enjoyed a Residential Holiday Party;
- sponsored a Super Bowl Party in the dorms;
- attended Valentine’s Day Party at the Red Rooster Coffee House;
- enjoyed sledding (on the little snow we had);
- attended the State One-Act Play Festival;
- enjoyed rollerskating at SkateAway;
- attended Golden Dragon Acrobats performance;
- sponsored an air hockey tournament;
- attended exhibitions at the NSU Art Gallery and the Dacotah Prairie Museum;
- sponsored a pool tournament;
- attended an Aberdeen “Wings” Hockey game;
- attended the River North Dance Chicago performance of “Street Beat”;
- attended SPURS Therapeutic Equestrian lessons;
- participated in swimming at the NSU pool;
- participated in NOAH’s 7th Annual Bowl-a-thon;
- enjoyed skating with the A-Town Roller Girlz roller derby team;
- sponsored a rummage sale; and
- continue to collect expired hunting licenses.

Music Contest
During the Regional Music Contest at Northern State University, under the direction of Phyllis Heier and assisted by Lela Holcomb. Pictured: Mixed Vocal Ensemble of Jeremy Neuheisel, Nicholas Bruhn, April Dominick, Kelly Jorgensen, and Kendra Terkildsen; earned an II (excellent rating). Nicholas earned an I (superior rating) and April earned an I+ (superior rating) for their vocal solos.

Girls Trio of April, Kelly, and Kendra earned an I (superior rating).
The School celebrated “Homecoming Week” with royalty being crowned and each day had a theme, including “PJ day”, “t-shirt day”, “nerd day”, pop/candy day and “Blue and Gold Day.”

**Fall Happenings On Campus!**

King Nicholas Bruhn
Queen Kendra Terkildsen

Students enjoying the outdoors

Each Fall, the Aberdeen Lions, Aberdeen Lioness, and NSU Campus Clubs put on a wonderful “Welcome Back Picnic” for the students.

Halloween Costumes

A beautiful day spent at Sica Hollow!

We Love Trees!
Steve Bistedeau, Santa’s Helper, shared gifts with the students and staff during the “Dorm Party”.

Our Holiday Program “Christmas Stories” featured both group and individual vocal and instrumental music.

Each year the students enjoy a Holiday Party sponsored by the Aberdeen Lions, Aberdeen Lioness, and NSU Campus Clubs.

Students and staff enjoyed creating special gifts during “Christmas Sharing”.

Students & staff had fun making our 1st ever float for the “Parade of Lights”.

Students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon exploring the Fire Station.

Ringing Bells
Student Council members helped raise money for the Salvation Army’s ringing bells with the “Red Kettle” program.

We enjoyed Wonderful Holiday Meals prepared by Ray Mehlhoff, Angie Usselman, Juanita Misslitz, and Eileen Kriech. A special thank you to Ray for coming back to help in the kitchen!
Donations
The School would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
Tulare Lions Club, Tulare SD
Daughters of the American Revolution Newton Chapter, Wichita KS
Heide Kuhlman, USBORNE Books, Hazel SD
Scheels, Sioux Falls SD
Eye Opener Lions Club, Huron SD
Mary Hansen, Belle Fourche SD
First State Bank & Trust, Brookings SD
Bruhn Farm Service, Berthold ND (Art Supplies)
International Association of Lions Club (2012 SD Lions Convention)

Miscellaneous Donations
Amanda Lacher, Ipswich SD (Toys)
Lois Powers, Missouri City TX (Campbell Soup Labels & Braille Magazines)
Aberdeen Lions Club (Tickets to Glen Everhart's "The Magic of Christmas")
Aberdeen Kiwanis (Tickets to "A Tribute to Johnny Cash")
Rhiannon Town, Faulkton SD (Clothing and Kites)
Estate of Doris Atteberry (Talking Map, Teaching Materials, Books, Braille, Music Items, Technology, Cookbook, etc.)
Emily Heintzman, Aberdeen SD (Holiday Pins)
Elycia, Leland & Ginny Severson (Videos: Despicable Me, How to Train Your Dragon, and Winnie the Pooh)
Ipswich Lions Club (Wii Zumba Dance & Mario Kart games, controllers and charging system)
Michelle Jennings & Teresa Jemming, Woonsocket SD (Toys)
Perkins Restaurant, Aberdeen SD (Cookies & Muffins for Staff Appreciation)
Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen SD (Set of dishes for the ADL Room)
Janel Ludwig, Aberdeen SD (Soccer Balls and Targets)
Northern State University (Complimentary Passes to Sporting Events)
Aberdeen Lions & Lioness Clubs, NSU Lions Clubs (Student Christmas Party)
Aberdeen Lions & Lioness Clubs, NSU Lions Clubs (Student "Welcome Back" Picnic)
Royal Neighbors of America (Valentines and Cookies for students)
Kelli Meister (Receipts, Campbell's labels, "Box Tops" coupons)
SkateAway, Aberdeen SD (Great Hospitality during our field trip)
A-Town Roller Girlz, SD (Fun night of skating and Roller Girlz pins)
Eileen Kriech, Aberdeen SD (Kids Videos)

Memorial for Doris Atteberry (Music Department)
Jane Ann Rayman, Aberdeen SD

Quilts
LeAnn Wurtz and her mother Judith were visiting with their Outreach Vision Consultant, Amy Scepaniak, about what kinds of jobs a young girl, such as LeAnn, with her visual impairment could have on a Hutterite Colony. After a visit to the SDSBVI, LeAnn and Judith Wurtz learned of the wish of some of the newer students for a snuggly quilt. The project became a community effort, where the ladies at the Brentwood Colony sewed 16 beautiful quilts that were given to the students. (LeAnn and Judith)

Kendra Terkildsen and Kelly Jorgenson enjoy playing the Wii games donated by the Ipswich Lions Club


Communication is Key  
By Candice Lee

Pete Peterson, Physical Plant Manager and Candice Lee, Speech Language Pathologist, pictured, recently collaborated to develop an augmentative communication devise for KrisLynn Zahm, a 3rd grade student in the Basic Skills Program. Candice explains “KrisLynn has been using augmentative communication to make choices for quite awhile, but her new board is easier for her to access and encourages her to use both hands”. Because she is totally blind, tactile cues in front of the switches allow her to locate the correct voice output switch before pushing on it.

“This makes it easier for her to tell us what she wants without accidentally pushing the wrong switch”. KrisLynn is also learning to identify tactile cues for her daily schedule and days of the week. Tactile cues are an alternative to reading until her Braille skills are better. In addition to augmentative communication, KrisLynn is using speech and sign language to express herself.

Roller Derby with A-Town Roller Girlz

The students and staff enjoyed an evening of practice to be on a team.

Project Skills

Students are excited about their Project Skills jobs. This year: Kelly Jorgensen works as a Prep Cook for Aramark at NSU, Courtland Collins is a Floor Worker at Kids Against Hunger, April Dominick is an Office Assistant at Safe Harbor, Emery Long Crow is a Pool Maintenance Technician at the YMCA and a Laundry Attendant at the Ramkota Inn, Jeremy Neuheisel is an Office Assistant at Kids Against Hunger, and Tylor Killspotted is a Food Service Worker for Aramark at NSU.

Courtland Collins, April Dominick, Jordan Houseman, Shane Hoffman, and John Sauer enjoy their on-campus jobs too.
Sir Black Beary

A highlight of the South Dakota Association of the Blind Convention is a spirited auction. The two most unusual items on the auction block are the banquet’s Master of Ceremony and a traveling black bear. This year Dr. Marjorie Kaiser won the bid and the black bear has come to spend a year at the SDSBVI. No sooner did he hit campus than he was given a school shirt and then the students decided he needed a real name. Since its arrival coincided with our Homecoming, a naming contest was held and “Sir Black Beary” was chosen. He has been very busy meeting the Aberdeen Roller Girlz and NSU’s Mascot “Thunder”; he was involved in the Quilts of Valor Program, the Lions Christmas Party, the I Hate Winter Party, room cleaning, sledding, and many other campus events.

He has also traveled all over the state of South Dakota as well as to Minnesota with students for a track meet. He went to Dallas, TX for an American Foundation for the Blind Board meeting and to Louisville, KY for the annual meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind. While in Louisville, Sir Black Beary had the opportunity to meet and have his picture taken with many of the leaders in the blindness field. Sir Black Beary is really looking forward to more on-campus activities and traveling. Be sure to stop and say “Hi” if you visit the campus in Aberdeen or see him on Facebook (South Dakota Association of the Blind).

Move! For Heart

The students, staff, and NSU students enjoyed an afternoon of exercising and raised over $923 for the American Heart Association with student Jeremy Neuheisel raising the most. Everyone had a good workout!

Arts & Special Activities Committee

This Committee is the School’s version of a PTA and Booster Club all rolled up in one. Throughout the year it works on a variety of projects to support the School and our students, including:

- help to purchase the NuStep T5 Recumbent Cross Trainer;
- coordinate the “Artist in Residence” Program;
- sponsor Staff Appreciation Activities;
- sponsor Student Projects; and
- give out “Welcome Bags” to new parents.

You can help the Committee by collecting and sending the following to the School:

- Kessler’s and Ken’s receipts;
- Campbell’s Soup Labels;
- Computer Printer Cartridges;
- My Coke Rewards Points;
- Target’s Dollars for Schools;
- Pennies for the “Pennies for Pioneers” Program;
- “Box Tops for Education” coupons; and
- UPC codes from Our Family products.

The Committee also sells School Mugs ($7), Centennial Plates ($8), School Bags ($2), Drawstring Bags ($4), Pioneer Shirts ($10, $15, or $25 depending on style), and Logo Shirts (various sizes and styles). If you are interested in more information on any of the projects, contact Dawn LaMee at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814, or email at lameed@sdsbvi.northern.edu.
Student Training

The School believes it is important for staff to have educational opportunities to continue to be leaders in their fields. Sue Birrenkott, Outreach Transition Specialist, attended the Sioux Empire Strikes Back-Transition to Employment Conference where she was able to learn more about employment skills.

Jodi Carlsgaard, PE/Health Instructor, attended the South Dakota Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference to learn new techniques to help the students.

Indira Dillon, Outreach Vision Consultant, attended the Early Childhood Literacy LETRD Training where she was able to learn more about early literacy skills.

Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Certified Low Vision Therapist®, presented at the International Getting In Touch with Literacy Conference held in Louisville, KY. Her paper was entitled, “What Current Visual Science Research Tells Us about Readers with Low Vision.” The objective of this conference is to share current research and practice with specialists that teach reading to students who are blind or visually impaired. Tevan Fischbach, Instructor and Diane Agnitsch, Certified Braillist, also attended the conference to help gain an understanding of the trends in education. Getting In Touch Conference was supported by the American Printing House for the Blind, the Braille Institute of America, and the Council for Exceptional Children.

R.Lee Ginsbach, Business Manager, and Amy Scepaniak, Outreach Vision Consultant attended the International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference (CSUN) and trade show to help them stay abreast of the changes in technology in the areas of vision and deafness.

Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent, attended American Printing House Annual Meeting and the Council of Schools for the Blind Leadership Institute to network with other leaders in the field of blindness.

Mark Krogstrand, Principal, attended the Coach Don Meyer’s Leadership Clinic to hear about the principles of team building and leadership. Mark attended the ASBSD/SASD Annual Joint Convention to network with other professionals in the field of education. He serves on the Special Education Advisory Panel. Mark was also able to attend the South Dakota Association of Elementary School Principal Conference to network with other Principals.

Candice Lee, Speech & Language Pathologist attended the South Dakota Speech Language Hearing Convention where she received information on new techniques in working with students.

Beth Lopes, Instructor, attended a workshop on Transition Indicators where she learned how to create lesson plans to meet the needs of a student’s ability level.

Janel Ludwig, Psychological Examiner and Evaluation Team Leader, recently attended the Systems Approach to Treating Processing Disorders Workshop to learn techniques to help students with sensory processing issues. Janel also attended a workshop Psychopharmacology to learn more about how medications affect students.

Lorri Peterson and Lela Holcomb, Instructors, attended the South Dakota Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference where they learned about vision, reading, behavior and other topics related to benefit the children in their classrooms.

Laurel McNickle, Instructional Assistant, serves as an Affiliate Challenge Master for South Dakota in the Destination Imagination Program; a creative problem solving program where she is involved at both the Regional and State level.

Jane Mundschenk, Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor®, attended the National Science Teachers Association Conference to learn and gather ideas to engage students in all levels of science.

Jeanie Schmidt, Intervenor for a deaf/blind student, attended a seminar In the Eyes & Out the Hands to learn more about helping those students that use an interpreter.
Hands-On Learning
Beth Lopes, Social Studies Instructor, uses creative ways to give her students the benefit of hands-on learning.

Nic Cochrane with Game, Fish & Parks Dept. brought animal pelts for students to feel

Special Art Class
With the help of Chelsea Fischbach, a local Artist, several students were able to submit art pieces to the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) international art competition.

Summer Fun & Learning
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO ATTEND THE SDSBVI SUMMER PROGRAMS!
Summer is just around the corner, especially since we have had such nice weather lately. The deadline for the SDSBVI Summer School Program is fast approaching…April 15! Get your registrations forms in soon. Beginning dates for the weeks are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session I</th>
<th>Session II</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1: June 10</td>
<td>Week 4: July 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: June 17</td>
<td>Week 5: July 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: June 24</td>
<td>Week 6: July 22</td>
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The Summer Program specifically addresses and provides opportunities for students with visual impairments to focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). Areas addressed include:

Assistive Technology
- Sensory Efficiency Skills (Auditory, Tactile, and Visual)
- Self-Determination (Advocating for Self)
- Orientation and Mobility (Cane and Travel Skills)
- Compensatory Academic Skills, including communication modes (Braille)
- Social Interaction Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Recreation and Leisure Skills
- Career Education

Applications have been mailed out; if you need one contact your area Outreach Vision Consultant or go to our website at http://sdsbvi.northern.edu for the forms.
Quilts of Valor

The School hosted a Veterans’ Day Program to honor those who have served in the armed forces. The program included a Military Color Guard by the VFW Auxiliary; Colonel Michael P. Herman as guest speaker; Quilts of Valor, under the direction of Jayne Reuer, were presented to four veterans. The quilts are our way to say “thank you” for their service, sacrifice, and valor for our country. Special music was provided by the students, and Instructor Jodi Carlsgaard, SD Army National Guard Staff Sergeant, was Master of Ceremonies. Pictured are quilt recipients (back row) with students holding the quilts. Left to right: Terry Bacon (Air Force/Vietnam Veteran) with Nicholas Bruhn, Berthold ND; Colonel Michael Herman (Army National Guard/Global War on Terror Veteran) with Kelly Jorgensen, Centerville; Mariah Bloom receiving the quilt for her father the late Dewey Rans (Vietnam Veteran) with Kendra Terkildsen, White Lake; and Charlie Walker (Marine/World War II Veteran) with April Dominick, Timber Lake.

Celebrates Thanksgiving In a Creative Way

By Amanda Lacher

Students and staff took a different approach to celebrating Thanksgiving this year. The pilgrim students started with a trip on the Mayflower across the Atlantic Ocean, landed on Plymouth Rock, and spent their first Thanksgiving feasting with the Native Americans. Although the Mayflower was made of a cardboard box, the rock was taken from a local pasture, and the Native Americans played by the maintenance staff helped the students learn the history and true meaning of Thanksgiving.

Opportunities to Learn

Throughout the school year, Tim Jalbert, Occupational Therapist from Avera St. Luke’s provides therapy to our students on-campus but also offers hands-on experiences to graduate students in the Occupational Therapy Programs from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND and University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD.

Diversity Program

Shaina Riggs, a medical student from the University of South Dakota is pictured observing an Occupational Therapy graduate student from USD during her time on campus. The Diversity Program helps medical students gain a better understanding of our school and the needs of students with visual impairments.

Guests

The School was pleased to host Gaye Mattke, Division Director of SBVI; Grady Kickul, Division Director of Voc Rehab; and Laurie Gill, Secretary of the Department of Human Services on campus. It’s always fun to “show off our place”.

Artist

Each year the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) holds an international art competition for adults and children preschool through 12th grade. We are proud to announce that Nicholas Bruhn, Berthold ND, created a piece of artwork he called “Freebird” that was accepted for exhibition in the APH Insights Art Competition in Louisville, KY. Eighty-one from the 396 entries were selected for the exhibition with pieces judged on the basis of originality of concept, expressive use of medium, and artistic excellence.

Musical Guests

The NSU saxophone ensemble of Chelsea Kerbaugh, former NSU workstudy student, Professor Fred Hemke, Steven Zimoski, and Shengwen Wu visited campus and shared saxophone-based selections. Our students also had a chance to check out the different saxophones “close up” afterwards too.
Advisory Council Meeting
The group meet to collaborate its efforts regarding the School, sharing with other agencies and programs serving the blind and visually impaired, and working to ensure the SDSBVI as a positive place for kids. If you have any questions or items that you would like this group to consider or discuss, please contact Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Kaiser at kaiserm@sdsbvi.northern.edu or 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814.

Secret Santa Tree
Students, staff, and the Aberdeen Lioness Club got into the holiday spirit again by purchasing gifts for area families in need of help to make for a “merry” Christmas. The effort truly did teach everyone, it is better to give than receive.

Parking Lot
The “back 40” parking lot on our north side underwent a major makeover.

Read Across America
Several students attended the Read Across America event sponsored by the NSU South Dakota Education Association Chapter at the Lakewood Mall to help celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss! Students meet their favorite characters and had fun listening to stories, completed activities, and received a free book.

Mayor’s Advisory Committee
The following students: Nicholas Bruhn, Courtland Collins, April Dominick, Kelly Jorgensen, Tylor Killspotted, Emery Long Crow, Jeremy Neuheisel, and Kendra Terkildsen along with staff members Dawn LaMee, Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, R.Lee Ginsbach, Sue Birrenkott, Lela Holcomb, and Martin Pfotenhauer attended the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Luncheon in October. This event gave those who attended an update and new perspectives on not only dealing with disabilities, but how to positively advocate for themselves in the “world of work”.

Old But Still New
Diane Agnitsch, Braille Transcriber and Instructional Assistant enjoys working with our new Thermoform Machine. In 1961, the American Thermoform Corporation (ATC), developed the thermoform duplicator for the purpose of providing a means to produce Braille. It was a revolutionary concept and immediately embraced by the blind community, including the SDSBVI which purchased a unit around 1965. Using specially formulated paper it is possible to produce anything tactiley.

Valentines
Members of the Local Chapter of the Royal Neighbors of America gave valentines and cookies to the students. Its neighbor-helping-neighbor philosophy encourages members to work together and give back to their communities. Each active chapter receives funding from Royal Neighbors based on its participation.

Visit from the Princess
Jennifer Mellette, Miss Indian Nations XVII, Miss Standing Rock, McLaughlin SD, NASA President and SRST Intern was a guest in Beth Lopes’ Social Study class. The students and staff enjoyed listening to her stories and having hands-on experiences with the traditional items she showed.
**Track & Field**

The track meets found the students competing against a strong field from schools for the blind. Coaches Jodi Carlsgaard and Bob McLaughlin were very pleased with the students' efforts and how they represented us.

**Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Track Meet:**

**Nicholas Bruhn:** 60M Run (11.13), 400M Run (1:41.19), Long Jump (8' 2½”), Triple Jump (19’ 11 ¼”), Shot Put (17’ ½”), 800M Run (3:27.0);

**Courtland Collins:** 60M Run (10.13), 400M Run (1:30.56), Long Jump (10’7¾”), Shot Put (17’ ½”) 800M Run (3:25.0); **April Dominick:** 60M Run (10.66), Long Jump (7’ 11”), Triple Jump (13’11 ¼”), Shot Put (17’ 4”);

**Kelly Jorgensen:** 60M Run (11.90), 400M Run (1:49.75), Long Jump (8’ 2”), Shot Put (15’ 6”); **Emery Long Crow:** 60M Run (15.40), 400M Run (1:54.91), Long Jump (4’ 4 ¾”), Shot Put (12’ 2½”), 800M Run (4:02.0); **Kendra Terkildsen:** 60M Run (10.91), 400M Run (1:37.75), Long Jump (7’ 10 ½”), Triple Jump (19’ 2½”), Shot Put (16’ 3½”), 800M Run (3:42.41). No individual places were awarded; just an opportunity to improve on their efforts!

**Pioneer Day:** Staff and students had a **GREAT DAY** playing games.

**TEAMS**

- **The Bad Boys:** 2 (Quinn, Ryker, Blaine, Amanda & Kyla)
- **The Whiners:** (Courtland, Malikhi, Tylor, John & Coach)
- **The Bad Boys:** (Jada/Jane, Sybilla/Diane & Trashawn/Penny)
- **The Rockets:** (Shane/Candee, KrisLynn/Laurel, Shay/Tim & Janel)
- **The Power Puff Girls:** (Kelly, April, Hailey & Mrs. Carlsgaard)
- **The Warriors:** (Jordan, Michael W, Michael M, Nick, Jeremy, Beulah (NSU) & Odis Richardson (NSU))

**GAMES**

**Softball:** Shay Peters: 1st (26’1”); Jordan Houseman: 2nd (21’8 ¼”); Michael McMillan: 3rd (18’9”); Michael Wingen: 4th (15’11 ½”)

**Tennis Ball:** Ryker Meister: 1st (21’6 ½”); Quinn Sterzinger: 2nd (16’8 ½”); Hailey Heintzman: 3rd (15’2”); Blaine Jemming: 4th (13’10 ¼”); Shane Hoffman: 5th (4’10”); Jada Madsen: 6th (3’5 ¼”); Trashawn Howard: 7th (3’); KrisLynn Zahm: 8th (1’5 ¾”)

**Shot Put:** Kendra Terkildsen (23’4”), April Dominick (23’4”), Kelly Jorgensen (22’21 ½”), Janel Ludwig (20’4”), Lela Holcomb (20’2”), Sandra Payne (14’3½”), Nick Bruhn (21’6”), Courtland Collins (20’9 ½”), Emery Long Crow (17’7½”), Tylor Killspotted (16’4¼”), Malikhi Hansen (14’10 ¼”), John Sauer (13’10”)

**Wheel Barrow:** (Heat 1) 1st Power Puff Girls, 2nd Warriors (Heat 2) 1st Power Puff Girls, 2nd Whiners (Heat 3) 1st The Rockets, 2nd Bad Boys

**Cheer Contest:** Every Team was a WINNER!

**T-Shirt Scramble:** Power Puff Girls, The Rockets, The Bad Boys, Whiners, Bad Boys 2, Warriors

**Wacky Waiter:** Bad Boys 2, The Rockets, Power Puff Girls, Whiners, Bad Boys, Warriors

**Egg & Spoon:** Power Puff Girls, The Rockets, Bad Boys 2, Warriors, Bad Boys, Whiners

**Water Balloon Toss:** Everyone was a WINNER!
Bowling Fun
The “Special Olympians” got their season underway by participating in the Regional and State Bowling Tournaments at the Village Bowl in Aberdeen. Results at the Regional Meet included: **Malikhi Hansen** (3rd), **Hailey Heintzman** (4th), **Shane Hoffman** (5th), **Tylor Killspotted** (7th), **Emery Long Crow** (7th), **Michael McMillen** (2nd), **Michael Wingen** (1st), and **KrisLynn Zahm** (6th). Results at the State Meet included: **Gold Medals**: Emery Long Crow, Tylor Killspotted, Michael Wingen, Hailey Heintzman, and Shane Hoffman; **Silver Medal**: Michael McMillen; and **Bronze Medal**: Malikhi Hansen. Congratulations to one and all, with a special thanks to Coach Tevan Fischbach for all of her work not only with our students, but with the committee for the event games as well. A GREAT time was had at the Opening Ceremonies with a banquet, karaoke, dancing, and special awards at the Ramada Inn in Aberdeen topped off a great weekend!

Once again our students lived up to the Special Olympics oath “Let Me Win, But If I Cannot Win, Let Me Be Brave in the Attempt!” The vocal group of Nicholas Bruhn, Courtland Collins, April Dominick, April Jorgensen, Emery Long Crow, Michael McMillen, Jeremy Neuheisel, and Kendra Terkildsen under the direction of Music Instructor Phyllis Heier with assistance from Mrs. Holcomb, sang “The Star Spangled Banner” to kick off the festivities!
HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR PIONEER?
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Record warm temperatures and no snow in January & February in South Dakota - No kidding!