Strategic Planning

By Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent

This year SDSBVI has embarked on the process of strategic planning. Strategic planning encourages us to review our mission and our values and focus our attention on plans for the future of the school and its programs. Margaret Sumption of Sumption & Wyland of Sioux Falls has been helping us with this process. In the fall, the faculty and staff met as a large group to redefine our mission and address our common values. Since then, based on the input from parents, schools, and our own staff, we have identified goal areas for our plan. The process will be completed this spring and our plan will be ready to share with others. Our overall mission is established in state law; that has not changed. However, our translation of the mission will read: “Preparing children to step forward with confidence and a vision of lifetime success.”

Remembering

With this being Volume 50 Issue 1 of The Pioneer we are taking a look back at what was happening at the school in Volume 1 Issue 1. Here are a few interesting things: The date was March 1962 (1st spring after school moved to Aberdeen). Staff included: Mike Lauritsen (Editor); Elaine Sheppard (Co-Editor); Norma Stuglemeyer, Mary Jane Gruener, Donna Solberg, and Janet Fitz (Typists); Dan Rust (Sports Editor/Mimeograph); Dan Nelson (Social Studies); Monica Stuglemeyer (Home Economics); LaVonne Sheppard (Calendar); Norma Stuglemeyer and Janet Fitz (Music News/Student Federation); Norma Stuglemeyer (English News/Cover) Mary Jane Gruener (Grade News/Typing News); Ellen Koplen & Patsy Walters (Special Assignments); and Mrs. Carkuff (Advisor).

Articles included: Sight Saving Room News; Going Home (written by current Principal Mark Krogstrand, age 8); Sports: (bowling, state wrestling tournament SDSB students entered David Gruener 95 lbs, Rolland Broz, 154 lbs and Dan Rust 165 lbs; Student Federation (LaVonne Sheppard, Noel Smith, and Rolland Broz appointed to plan a spring party); Braille Primary News (articles by Lerae Olesen, Rochelle Foley, Joel Jeffries, Wayne Shaw, Bobby Covel, Leighton Meyers and Gertrude Judstra); Third & Fourth Grade Art by Madeline Dogg; Math News (7th & 8th grade math, algebra, upholstering, weaving, woodworking, ceramics, and plastics); History News (7th & 8th Social Studies, Social Adjustment, American History, Sociology, American Government); Scouts by Jim Ganski; A Play Given by Patsy Walters; Magazine Section (The Gun Powder Stain by David Gruener, The Bear Who Ate a Tree by Shirley Lunzer, The Little House by Glen Renville and The Value of Birds and Flowers by Carla Carls); Honor Roll (Patsy Walters: 3.00, Elaine Sheppard: 4.25, LaVonne Sheppard: 4.25, Donna Solberg: 4.50 and Mary Jane Gruener: 5.00).
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 the following ways.

Contributions: The easiest, most common way to support the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired is with a gift of cash. Donations are tax deductible and offer the possibility to make an immediate impact on the opportunities and enrichment activities offered to students by the Foundation.

Bequest/Memorial: Remember your loved ones and/or friends with a memorial.

Devises of Assets: Share your real estate and/or investments.

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

Contributions (9/1/12- 3/1/13)

Beadle Floral & Nursery, Aberdeen SD
Klepetka Specialty Company, Aberdeen SD
Jim Thares, Primrose Management, Aberdeen SD
Orthopedic Physical Therapy Center, Aberdeen SD
Aberdeen Chrysler Center, Aberdeen SD
Kris Sueltz-Fliehs, Aberdeen SD
Tacoma Park Place/Dakota River Ranch, Columbia SD
Jcw Investment, LLC, Aberdeen SD
Doug Fjeldheim, Aberdeen SD
Academy Trophy & Engraving Co, Aberdeen SD
Helms & Associates, Aberdeen SD
Schwan Welding & Boiler Repair, Aberdeen SD
Patrick and Ruth Coughlin, Aberdeen SD
Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, Aberdeen SD
House of Glass, Aberdeen SD
Buffalo Ridge Resort, Gary SD
Plains Commerce Bank, Aberdeen SD
Vision Care Associates, Aberdeen SD
Ophthalmology Associates, Aberdeen SD
Allen Haier OD, Sioux Falls SD
Carol Byrd OD, Sioux Falls SD
James Nelson OD, Huron SD
Dallas Wilkinson OD, Hot Springs SD
Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Aberdeen SD
Sharon Williams Wood, Apple Valley MN
South Dakota Association of the Blind
Paul Greenfield OD, Sioux Falls SD
Aberdeen Area Christian Women, Aberdeen SD
Chuck and Teresa Timanus, Reston VA
Nancy Corwin, Beresford SD

Sharon Lee, Aberdeen SD
Ted Kneebone, Aberdeen SD
Aberdeen Lioness Club, Aberdeen SD
Volga Lions Club, Volga SD
Gregory Lions Club, Gregory SD
Aberdeen Lions Club, Aberdeen SD
Allen and Norma Jenks, Mitchell SD
Lori Arnold, Ortley SD
Michael Klimisch, Sioux Falls SD
Doug Puetz, Rapid City SD
Gailand Fischer, Redfield SD
Ted Fowler, Aberdeen SD
Sherron Grote, Aberdeen SD
Wilbert and Anne Werre, Belle Fourche SD
Jerry and Marie Topp, Fargo ND
Edythe Cascini, Lincoln NE
Jason and Heather Grebner, Aberdeen SD
Rene Graf, Aberdeen SD

Memorial for Dr. Ellen Libby
Jane Ann Rayman, Aberdeen SD
Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Aberdeen SD

Memorial for Sheldon Sheridan
Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD

Memorial for Alfreida Schock
Joel Albrecht, Aberdeen SD
Enjoying the Outdoors
Students and residential staff enjoyed a beautiful Saturday last fall with a picnic lunch at Roy Lake State Park and a walk up Nicolette Tower near Sisseton SD.

Empowered with Accessible Learning
New to the school this year is a TAP-it® which is a Touch Accessible Platform for Interactive Technology. It is the first portable assistive, learning center using “intended touch” that can help serve each individual’s special needs. The screen can be raised or lowered depending on the height of the student using it. It can also be angled from a typical vertical position to a horizontal (table-top) position or anywhere in between. Jane Mundschenk, our Instructor who teaches General Science, Life Science, Biology, and Chemistry, has found it very useful for students to have an interactive way of learning. Jane is also an Orientation & Mobility Specialist® and uses the TAP-it® with her low vision students as well.

Classical Duet
Dr. Robert Vodnoy, NSU Music Professor and Kate Judelek, music student shared their love of classical music with the students and staff by playing a variety of arrangements on the violin.

Mayor’s Committee Luncheon
Students: Courtland Collins, April Dominick, Jordan Harkless, Tylor Kills Spotted, Michael McMillan, Jeremy Neuheisel, Kendra Terkildsen, along with staff members: Karen Gerety, Dawn LaMee, and Bob McLaughlin attended the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Luncheon and training hosted by the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities in Aberdeen. Motivational speaker John Robinson shared his challenges and experiences of growing up as a person with a disability as he was born a congenital amputee.

Artist in Schools
Students and staff were pleased to host Linda Bruning for a week long residence through the South Dakota Arts Council “Artist in the Schools” Program with funding provided by a mini-grant from the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Linda worked with the students and staff in promoting the theater and acting. Her residence culminated with the students giving great performances.
Homecoming Week

The School celebrated each day of the week with a theme, including “crazy day”, “favorite animal day”, and “Blue and Gold Day.”

Student Council leadership and committee representatives are pictured (front row): Jeremy Neuheisel (Vice-President & Wellness Committee), April Dominick (President), and Nicholas Bruhn (Co-Secretary). Back row: John Sauer (Co-Secretary) and Courtland Collins (Arts & Special Activities Committee). Other committee members are Malikhi Hansen, Shane Hoffman, Tylor Killspotted, Emery Long Crow, Michael McMillen, Kendra Terkiidsen, and Jordan Harkless.

Have You Ever Eaten A Cell? By Jane Mundschenk

Have You Ever Eaten A Cell? Depending on your age, you have probably eaten a quadrillion, a centillion, or maybe more cells. Everything that is living is made up of cells. Some organisms have only one cell while other organisms have many, many more. This year, the General Science class learned about what things have cells and why they are important. Most cells contain many organelles such as a nucleus, vacuoles, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, cytoplasm, lysosomes, cell membrane and mitochondria. Each of the parts have specific jobs—control center, storage, transportation system, etc. Plant cells have two (2) things that make them different from animal cells—a cell wall allowing them to have upright stems and chloroplasts that allow them to make food. Since cells are microscopic, as a unit wrap-up, the students made models of animal and plant "cells". They used a variety of edible materials to represent each of the organelles found in the cell. Once they were done, they were able to eat their "cells". Yummy!! Jordan Houseman is pictured making a cell.

Special Opportunity

Tim Jalbert, Avera St. Luke’s Occupational Therapist, and SDSBVI students continue to provide hands-on experiences to students in the Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND (pictured left) Laura Smith, a Graduate student, completed her 3 months internship helping students like Sybilla Heintzman learn to lace a shoe. Tim Jalbert is (pictured right) helping Jada Madsen scoop her snack as Kindra Schmidt a Level 1 Occupational Therapy student observes.

Secure Schools

By Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent

There has been considerable discussion about school safety at the national, state, and local levels so we also reviewed our policies relating to building security and decided to make some additional changes. The only exterior door that will be unlocked during the school day is the main entrance on 17th Avenue. All visitors (including family members and vendors) are asked to sign in and wear a visitor’s badge. Classrooms and other common areas have been fitted with new locks to make it easy for teachers to restrict classroom access. A gate was installed to separate the school from public activities which might take place in the gym. We will soon add lock down drills to our other drills for fire and tornado. At the end of the school year we will review the new procedures and make any necessary changes.
Chamber Visit
The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce visited the school while celebrating “Chamber Week”. Students were able to show off the school to Board Members, Ambassadors, and Diplomats.

Music Contest
During the Regional Music Contest at Northern State University, Nicholas Bruhn sang with his concert choir class at Central High School and received an “Excellent II” with the ensemble group and a “Superior I” rating for his vocal solo of “Way Fairing Stranger”. April Dominick, under the direction of Music Instructor Phyllis Heier, earned a “Superior I” rating for her vocal solo of “Vitoria Mia Core.”

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

Living Christmas Tree
With the theme of “A Season of Joy a Celtic Christmas”, one of pleasanties of the holiday season in Aberdeen is the annual “Living Christmas Tree” production with the singing taking place on a 70 foot tall holiday tree constructed from scaffolding. We are proud to recognize staff members who participated in this event: Jane Mundschenk, Tevan Fischbach, and Phyllis Heier and for the first time our student, April Dominick.

Changes on Campus
After nearly 50 years, the beautiful Oak tree that occupied a place in the circle driveway was removed for safety reasons. Also, the main parking lot was completely reconstructed in the fall.

Art Display
A display featuring art and sculpture by individuals with disabilities was recently held at the Dacotah Prairie Museum. Several of our students submitted pieces and were able to attend a reception to show off their work.
Holiday Happenings On-Campus

Our Holiday Program “Over the River and Through the Woods” featured both group and individual vocal and instrumental music.

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

Students and staff created special gifts during “Christmas Sharing.”

Ringing Bells
Student Council members helped raise $218.55 for the Salvation Army’s by ringing bells for the “Red Kettle” program.
Student News and Notes

Our students also enjoyed many other activities.

- enjoyed a day at Storybook Land riding the train, carousel, and the balloon
- participated in the Community Clean-Up Project
- enjoyed a day at Thunder Road riding the go-carts
- enjoyed “Blue Goose Day” at Sand Lake Refuge
- shared pizza with Josh Moon, NSU Athletic Director and his family
- attended the Fallout Art Show and party at the Red Rooster Coffee House
- enjoyed a fun Halloween Movie Marathon
- attended SPURS Therapeutic Equestrian lessons
- enjoyed the “Haunted Forest” at Storybook Land
- attended the Fraternal Order of Police’s concert
- attended activities at the YAPAtorium
- attended a music concert at NSU & Aberdeen Central High School
- purchased Christmas gifts from the Santa Tree for the residents at the Turtle Creek Redfield Development Center
- enjoyed decorating pumpkins for a dorm activity
- attended the Kiwanis Club Ice Cream Social
- attended the NESD Celtic Fair
- attended Old Time Threshing Bee at Andover SD
- attended 2nd Annual Culturefest at the NSU Barnett Center
- enjoyed time with the Aberdeen Lions, Lioness, & NSU Clubs: Halloween, Christmas, and St. Patrick’s Day parties
- purchased and packaged gift items in two shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child
- enjoyed the Aberdeen Men’s Chorus Concert
- enjoyed a Residential Holiday Party with Mark Flint as Santa’s Helper
- enjoyed caroling with the NSU Lions Club
- sponsored a Super Bowl Party in the dorms
- enjoyed a Valentine’s Day supper and activities with Local Chapter of the Royal Neighbors of America
- attended events at the Red Rooster Coffee House
- enjoyed a surprise 80th Birthday party with former Principal Dean North (picture with his wife Donna)
- attended a performance of touring dance troupe “TAPS Kids”
- enjoyed roller skating at SkateAway
- sponsored an air hockey tournament
- participated in a “mock Presidential Election” (Social Studies class)
- sponsored a pool tournament
- attended two “Aberdeen Wings” Hockey games
- participated in swimming at the NSU pool
- enjoyed a “I Hate Winter” party and scavenger hunt during a weekend blizzard
- participated in NOAH’s 7th Annual Bowl-a-Thon
- enjoyed listening to Abrams Brothers, a bluegrass music group
- collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- attended the Regional Transition forum
- participated in the SD MyLife Program (career exploration, interest inventories)

Rolling Along

Quinn Sterzinger, student, enjoyed being able to skate with the A-Town Roller Girlz during half time of an exhibition bout. They played special music while he cruised with the Girlz, including “Quinn the Eskimo” and “Blowin’ in the Wind.”
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; Chief Warrant Officer Merle Kjer, as guest speaker and Quilts of Valor, under the direction of Jayne Reuer, were presented to eight 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 under the direction of Phyllis Heier.

Pictured (left to right) are the quilt recipients Ken Jorgenson (Army, Korean War); Chief Warrant Officer Merle Kjer (Army, Vietnam War), Don Whittlinger (Navy, WWII), Terry Moffenbier (Air Force and Marines), Nick Abbas (SD Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn); and Wayne Grunendike (Army, WWII Battle of the Bulge). Honored, but unable to attend the event, was Bernard Fischbach (Army, WWII).

Honored during our Christmas program was Edward Scheer (Army 1954-56) pictured with Jayne Reuer, area director of Quilts of Valor Program.

“Power of the Brailler” By Mrs. Agnitsch

As a class project, during the 2011-12 school year, the students in Mrs. Fischbach and Mrs. Agnitsch classroom chose to “Support our Troops” with the “Power of the Brailler”. Nick Abbas was a natural choice as he is the son-in-law of Mrs. Agnitsch. During Nick’s deployment with the South Dakota Army National Guard, the students corresponded with Braille letters and Braille pictures. When Nick returned to South Dakota, he visited their classroom sharing with them his experiences. Nick is pictured with the students and staff on Veterans Day 2012 when their classroom presented him with his “Quilt of Valor”. This positive experience was extended to the fall of 2012 when the students corresponded with Alex Hansen, U.S. Army, deployed to Afghanistan. Alex is the sister of fellow classmate Malikhi Hansen. Malikhi is pictured at the airport waiting for his sister Alex to arrive home; ready to present her with the welcome home poster that he and his classmates made.

Move! For Heart

The students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of exercising and raising $1133.25 for the American Heart Association, with student Jeremy Neuheisel raising the most.
Transition Trails

By Karen Gerety, Transition Specialist

There are a lot of exciting changes going on with the transition-age students at the school! Emery Long Crow, who has been at the SDSBVI since he was just a little guy, has moved into an apartment with two roommates. He will receive support from the Aspire staff, a local Community Support Provider, on his independent living and employment skills. Emery also started an internship in the cafeteria at 3M through Project SEARCH. The internship, which lasts 10 weeks, will give him new job skills to add to his already-growing resume. Emery is also hoping to get an evening job at a local hotel. He reports: “I’m very happy in my new apartment.” Although we are very sad to see him go, we are overjoyed with his success and growth. Good luck, Emery!

April Dominick recently moved on from her Project Skills job to being hired as a cashier at Wal-Mart. She reports that she is enjoying the job so far and said “there is a lot to learn, but that I’m up for the challenge!” She has been a great self-advocate so far, asking for those accommodations to make her job easier and her employer has been very supportive of her requests. Great job, April!

Courtland Collins and Jeremy Neuheisel continue to be an important part of the team at Kids Against Hunger, their Project Skills worksite. The same can be said for Tylor Killspotted in his dishwashing job at NSU Aramark Dining Services. They will be ready for new challenges at the end of the school year. Jeremy plans to graduate and move back to Sioux Falls, and Courtland and Tylor are up for new adventures, whether with Project Skills or by obtaining employment on their own. Both attended the Community Job Fair held in Aberdeen.

There are also a number of students who have on-campus jobs. In addition to Tylor, Jeremy, Courtland, and Malikhi Hanson, we also have Jordan Houseman, Jordan Harkless, Michael McMillen, John Sauer, and Hailey Heintzman. The skills and responsibility the students learn with their on-campus jobs will help them be successful in future jobs in the community.

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
- Labels for Education
- Computer Printer Cartridges and Cell Phone Recycling
- Land O’ Lakes Save 5 For Schools
- My Coke Rewards Points
- Target’s Dollars for Schools
- Tyson Project A+
- Pennies for the “Pennies for Pioneers” Program
- "Box Tops for Education" coupons

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 Jodi Carlsgaard at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814, or email at Jodi.Carlsagaad@sdsbvii.northern.edu
Our Staff

Welcome! We are pleased to welcome:
new staff members.

Brandon Heim and Nichole Nelson both joined as Residential Child Care Workers, Candice Mohn is our Speech Language Pathologist and Karen Gerety is our Transition Specialist.

Saying Good-bye! We sadly say good-bye to Debra Roesch and Kandi Weismantel Residential Child Care Workers, who have moved onto new opportunities.

Substitutes! In addition to the staff who work with us all year long, we recognize several substitutes who provide invaluable assistance to the students and staff. They include James Brandenburger, Sue Braun, Niki Gellhaus, Jordann Hansen, Ted Kneebone, Eileen Kriech, Penny Krogstrand, Susan Krogstrand, Amanda Ludwig, Gretchen Mayer, Ray Mehlhaff, Jayne Reuer, Ellen Thomsen, Kyla VanDenHemel, and Jami Whitney.

This year we welcomed NSU workstudy students Bethany Curtis, Hillary Filler, Hanna Kennington, Carlee Sanders, Kyla VanDemHemel, and Jami Whitney, all doing a variety of jobs. Stephanie Snow, NSU student, completed her student teaching in Mrs. Peterson’s classroom.

Staff Training

The School believes it is important for staff to have educational opportunities to continue to be leaders in their fields.

South Dakota Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference Presentations

Lorri Peterson, Instructor, and Jeanie Schmidt, Intervener, presented Optimizing Education for Deaf-Blind Students: The Intervener Model on how sensory loss can have a significant impact on a child’s development.

Indira Dillon, Susan Egging, Amy Scepaniak, and Julie VanDover, Outreach Vision Consultants, presented on How Can I Teach it if he can’t see it? The tools and materials that are available to schools and parents to use with their student/child in the classroom or at home.

Amy Scepaniak, Outreach Vision Consultant, and Karen Duenwald, SD State Library Educational Materials Coordinator presentation was Choosing an Accessible eBook Reader - What are Good Options on how people with low vision find devices to ensure a successful reading experience.

Karen Gerety, Transition Specialist and Cindy Kirschman, Transition Services Liaison Project, presentation was What Happens Next? Life Beyond High School for making the transition to “infinity and beyond!” on how students with disabilities are successful in school.

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

Pat Geditz, Librarian, attended the SD Library Association Conference keeping current on trends and the future needs of our library.

Karen Gerety, Transition Specialist, attended the Transition Indicators Training where she learned more about the IEP process. She was also able to attend the RehabACTion/Transition Fall Conference to become better acquainted with transition issues.

Diane Hoffman, Instructional Assistant/Speech Language Pathology Graduate Student in collaboration with Kyle Brouwer, USD Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders, presented a “Poster Presentation” of their research on Concomitant Speech Sound Disorders in Students with Visual Impairments at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Convention in Atlanta GA.
R. Lee Ginsbach, Business Manager, and Amy Scepaniak, Outreach Vision Consultant, attended the International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference (CSUN) and tradeshow to stay abreast of the changes in technology in the areas of vision and deafness.

Lela Holcomb and Beth Lopes, Instructors attended the South Dakota Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference where they learned about topics related to benefit the children in their classrooms.

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. Marjorie was also able to attend the South Dakota Association of the Blind Convention and National Federation of the Blind Convention, both are consumer groups.

Mark Krogstrand, Principal, attended the American Printing House Annual Meeting and the Council of Schools for the Blind Leadership Institute to network with other leaders. He attended the ASBSD/SASD Annual Joint Convention to network with other professionals in the field of education. He serves on the Office of Special Education Advisory Panel and attended iPad Training to learn how to implement the technology in our school. Mark is also active with the SD Association of Elementary Schools Principal (SDAESP) group and attended the State Convention.

Dawn LaMee, Liaison for Services, attended the 2010 ADA Standards Training where she was able to learn about the new standards involved with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Dawn was also able to attend the South Dakota Association of the Blind Convention, both consumer groups.

Janel Ludwig, Student Services Director, attended the DSM-5 Training to become familiar with changes in the field of diagnostics. She attended the RehabACTion/Transition Fall Conference to better understand transition issues. Janel also attended training on Writing Positive and Effective Behavior Plans to help students with challenging behavior.

Candice Mohn, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Lynette Gisi, Residential Child Care Worker, recently attended the 2013 Symposium on Deaf Blindness in Austin, Texas. The theme was “Hands Matter” in which many of the sessions focused on the importance of developing the tactile sense and hand-use in students with deaf blindness. One of the highlights was a presentation by Barbara Miles and Paul Hart called, “The Landscape of Touch”, and a tour of Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired which was interesting.

Jane Mundschenk, Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist®, attended the SOMA/COMA Conference to learn the newest techniques in the field of Orientation & Mobility. She also attended National Science Teachers Association Conference to gather new ideas for students in all levels of science.

Jeanie Schmidt, Intervener, was involved with a panel at the National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference to share her experiences as an Intervener. Jeanie was also able to be involved in the webinar Interpreters as Clear Channels to help open doors for students.

Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent, Candice Mohn, Speech-Language Pathologist, Lorri Peterson, Instructor, and Julie VanDover, Outreach Vision Consultant, attended the IEP Development and Linking to the Curriculum for Students who are Deaf-Blind or have Multiple Disabilities training where they were able to learn more on developing goals for students.
**Special Guests**

Beth Lopes’ Social Study class welcomed Joel McMaster, a firefighter, paramedic, and nurse, to share stories about his experiences and he allowed the students to see his equipment. The class also welcomed Indira Dillon, Outreach Vision Consultant, to share about her recent trip to India which correlated with their studies. Both opportunities provided wonderful hands-on experiences for the students.

**Family Weekend**

Mark your calendars as the Outreach Staff are planning for the 3rd Annual Family Weekend on June 8-9, 2013. This is the weekend that precedes our first session of summer school so your child can be here and ready to start the 1st week of summer school. Plans are to arrive in the afternoon on the 8th and depart at 12:00 pm on the 9th. Those students staying for the first session of summer school can check into the dorm. We will have activities for the whole family, guest speakers, hands-on experiences and much more. Look for more information in the future.

**Annual Family Swim**

After summer programming is over we invite families to swim together in the afternoon on July 26 at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center. If you would like more information about any of these events, contact Amy Scepaniak at 605-626-2580 or toll free 1-888-275-3814, or by email at scepania@sdsbvi.northern.edu.

**Summer Fun & Learning**

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>
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<tr>
<th>Session I</th>
<th>Session II</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1: June 9</td>
<td>Week 4: July 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: June 16</td>
<td>Week 5: July 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: June 23</td>
<td>Week 6: July 21</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 of focus including the following:

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

Information and applications have been mailed. If you need an application, contact your Outreach Vision Consultant or go to our website at [http://sdsbvi.northern.edu](http://sdsbvi.northern.edu) for the forms.
Donations
The School would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
Tulare Lions Club, Tulare SD
Royal Neighbors of America, Aberdeen SD
Rosebud WELCA, Lemmon SD
Sioux Empire Lions Club, Sioux Falls SD
Eye Opener Lions Club, Huron SD
Special Olympics of SD
Ophthalmology LTD, Sioux Falls SD (Low Vision Program)
Dakota Supply Group, Fargo ND
Brookings Noon Lions Club, Brookings SD
Scheels, Sioux Falls SD
Ipswich Lions Club, Ipswich SD

Miscellaneous Donations
LeAnn and Judith Wurtz, Brentwood Hutterite Colony (quilts/cookie tray)
Roslyn Community Quilters, Roslyn SD (quilts)
Paige Haug, Britton SD (toys)
Charles & Diane Flohr, Sioux Falls SD (Audio Books)
Kiwanis, Aberdeen SD (Tickets to "Kiwanis Ice Cream Social")
SkateAway, Aberdeen SD (Great Hospitality during our field trip)
Northern State University (Complimentary Passes to Sporting Events)
Aberdeen Lions & Lioness Clubs, NSU Lions Clubs (Student Christmas Party)
Eric Miller, Rush-Miller Foundation Pueblo CO (Tandem Bicycle)
Virginia Miller, Dell Rapids SD (Abacus Videos)
Dr. Merxbauer's Office, Aberdeen SD (Cookie Tray - "Random Acts of Kindness")
Aberdeen Lions & Lioness Clubs, NSU Lions Clubs (Student "Welcome Back" Picnic)
Main Street Photo Works, Aberdeen SD (Films and Disposable Cameras)

Quilts Donated
Students were thankful for the beautiful quilts recently donated by the Roslyn Community Quilters of Roslyn, SD. (picture) Snuggling with the donated quilts and the talented quilters are front row students: Henry Johnson, Vincent Stuwe, Trashawn Howard; middle row: quilters Marianna Aadland, Roslyn SD; Joan Storley, Britton SD; and Bonnie Strand, Britton SD; Back row students: April Dominick and Nick Bruhn

Sir Black Bear-y
At the 2011 convention, Superintendent Marjorie Kaiser bid on the South Dakota Association of the Blind (SDAB) Bear who came to spend the year at SDSBVI. This “traveling bear” had a busy year traveling not only with Marjorie, but with students and staff as well. The students and staff gave him the name, Sir Black Bear-y, and he became the school’s mascot taking part in a variety of activities. He had his picture taken with many leaders in the blindness field. This year SDAB was presented a petition from the SDSBVI students, staff, and friends to request permanent custody of Sir Black Bear-y be awarded jointly to the school and Dr. Kaiser. The SDAB membership approved the request and now Sir Black Bear-y lives at the SDSBVI permanently.
Pioneer Day
Coach Jodi Carlsgaard put together a fun day of activities where students and staff played indoor games, including cheer contest, softball/tennis ball throw, t-shirt scramble, Wacky Waiter egg & spoon/toilet paper roll, wheel barrow race, “Don’t Let the Ball Drop” race, water balloon toss, and a pie eating contest. Wow!

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 (1st), Hailey Heintzman (3rd), Shane Hoffman (2nd), Tylor Killspotted (5th), Michael McMillen (1st), Jeremy Neuhieisel (4th) and KrisLynn Zahm (1st). Results at the State Meet included: Gold Medal: Michael McMillen; Bronze Medal: Malikhi Hansen, Shane Hoffman, and Jeremy Neuhieisel; 4th Place: Tylor Killspotted and Hailey Heintzman. Congratulations to one and all, with a special thanks to Coach Tevam 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!” A vocal group under the direction of Music Instructor Phyllis Heier sang “The Star Spangled Banner”!

North Dakota…Goalball and More…
Coaches Tevan Fischbach and Jodi Carlsgaard and students (pictured) back row: Courtland Collins, Nick Bruhn, Jeremy Neuhieisel; front row: Michael McMillen and Jordan Houseman headed north in February along with to participate in a forensics and Goalball tournament with our friends at the North Dakota School for the Blind in Grand Forks. Highlights of the trip included: taco in a cup supper, forensics presentations, Goalball practice, “Showdown” tournament, karaoke, nighttime snacks, and a Goalball tournament as a finale.

JAM (Jam-A-Minute)
Jodi Carlsgaard, PE Instructor, has worked with the students and staff on “Jam-A-Minute” activities. In September, staff and students participated in a Nationwide effort to “JAM” with a series of short aerobic exercises. Students have been working on routines like: Raise the Roof, Knees Hips Throwback, Favorite Sport, Hula Hoop, and Circle.
Playing with the Pack
Students spent an afternoon playing games with the Northern State University (NSU) athletes and taking pictures with mascot “Thunder.”

Winter Fun
With our snow filled winter it gave students and staff several opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with snowshoeing, sledding, an outdoor picnic, building snow forts, and ice skating at the Odde Ice Arena.
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The Pioneer: Volume 50, No 1 Fall 2012-Winter 2013 The Pioneer is published twice a year by the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401-7699. Printing costs are donated by the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Edited by Dawn LaMee with photos taken by staff members.