Celebrating South Dakota’s 125th Birthday

Thanks to the generous support of the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired students and some staff were treated, during the summer program, to a day trip to Pierre, SD to tour the South Dakota (Cultural Heritage Center, State Capitol Building, and the World War I, II, Korean, and Vietnam War Memorials). The bus trip included a picnic lunch and wonderful tours. Students especially loved to feel all the historical items used by the early pioneers and to see where the State Legislature and State Officials do the day-to-day business. It was an interesting and educational day. We are so thankful to the staff and volunteer tour guides who took the time to help our students have a great day!

“Catch-up on your Dreams in 2015”

SDSBVI hosted an all-school reunion on August 14-15, 2015 to celebrate 115 years of educating students with visual impairments! Sixty-five people enjoyed a relaxing schedule that included a pizza party, picnic lunch, games, tours, and a “Remembrance Service” which gave time to remember all those associated with the school who have passed on in the last 5 years. (continued on page 19)
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.

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

**Devise 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 (3/26/15-9/1/15)**
- Sharon Nelson, Huron SD
- Parkston Lions Club, Parkston SD
- Mike Iverson, Ipswich SD
- Avera Health, Sioux Falls SD
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD
- Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Aberdeen SD
- Quality Quick Print, Aberdeen SD (Pioneer Printing)

**Memorials for R. Lee Ginsbach**
- Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD
- Christine Noble and Joseph McBurney, Frederick SD
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD
- Mary Wise, Aberdeen SD
- Nick and Jane Ann Rayman, Aberdeen SD
- Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD
- Daniel and Karen Aafedt, Vernon CT
- Reed and Tricia Dombush, Aberdeen SD
- Carol Ginsbach and Family, Aberdeen SD
- Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Aberdeen SD
- Tim and Amy Kessler, Aberdeen SD
- Jacki Sue Koehler, Aberdeen SD
- Mark and Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen SD
- Maureen Malsom, Aberdeen SD
- RJ and SM Marttila, Highlands Ranch CO
- Craig and Audrey McFarland, Aberdeen SD
- Paul and Peggy Petit, Aberdeen SD
- Steve and Gerianne Pfeiffer, Aberdeen SD
- Roland and Rita Pond, Aberdeen SD
- Stuart Quam, Aberdeen SD
- Twin City Roofing Co, Aberdeen SD
- William Sauck Jr., Aberdeen SD
- James and Jill Stephenson, Aberdeen SD
- Jeff Stockert, Aberdeen SD
- Darrell and Kristi Strivens, Aberdeen SD
- Scott and Jackie Witlock, Aberdeen SD

**Honor of Nick and Jane Ann Rayman**
- Carmen Meyer, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Donna Fladland Iszler**
- Larry and Durelle Meyers, Veblen SD

**Memorial for Earl Medhaug**
- Larry and Durelle Meyers, Veblen SD

**Memorial for Bonnie Haessig**
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Marlin Harms**
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Debra Hansen**
- Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

**Memorial for Judy Adler**
- Mark and Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Arleen Cornelius**
- Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

This May we lost a dear friend and colleague when R. Lee Ginsbach, the long-time Business Manager at the School, lost his valiant battle with cancer. R Lee was a founding member of the Foundation and will be remembered for his willingness to help others.

Superintendent Marjorie Kaiser is pictured presenting a clock to R Lee upon his retirement after devoting 32 years at the School.
The South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosted its 1st Annual “Dinner in the Dark”. The event was very well attended with over 140 enthusiastic participants enjoying a wonderful meal at this unique fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to provide social, cultural, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired.

**Thank You:**
Bieber Red Angus Ranch: Split-Half of Beef (raffle prize)
Jodi Carlsgaard: power-point video
Dan Cleberg: Master of Ceremony
Dakota Broadcasting Radio Station: radio advertising time
Phyllis Heier: piano music
Inspire Aberdeen & Wooden Mallet Custom, Doug & Sherron Grote: 5-senses baskets (door prizes)
Camille Kaul: beautiful table center pieces
Roland & Rita Pond: beef processing
Foundation Members and Doris Stusiak: many volunteer hours
Table “Miss Manners”: Diane Agnitsch, Mary Ann Appel, Jodi Carlsgaard, Tevan Fischbach, Marva Gellhaus, Sherron Grote, Phyllis Heier, Marje Kaiser, Camille Kaul, Dawn LaMee, Janel Ludwig, Jane Mundschenk, Jane Ann Rayman, Amy Scepaniak, and Julie VanDover

**Ticket Sponsors**
American News
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Schwan Financial Group
Rayman Flooring
Vision Care Associates
Ophthalmology Associates (Curt & Sue Wischmeier)

**Thank You: “Silent Auction” Items**
Tom and Diane Agnitsch
Barnett Vision Center
Dawn Brush/Anchors of Faith
Dizzy Blondz (Britton SD)
Dohman Eyecare
Bruce & Jan Johnson
Camille Kaul
Marjorie Kaiser
Ken’s Superfair Food
Dawn LaMee
Malchows Home Furnishings
NSU Wolf Shoppe
Riddle’s Jewelry
Doris Stusiak
Vision Care Associates
Walmart
Leanne and Judith Wurtz (Brentwood Hutterite Colony)
Congratulations Graduates!

We were proud to present diplomas to three of our students during the ceremony held on May 21. Commencement speaker Karen Gerety shared her thoughts on “Being a Pioneer” and Jim Morgan, representing the SD Board of Regents, conferred diplomas to our graduates. Our graduates shared the following thoughts with us.

**Shane Hoffman**, Ashley ND
Most Memorable Staff: Lela Holcomb, Laurel McNickle, and Dale Aman
Funny Experience in School: when Mrs. Holcomb dropped the puzzle map and pieces flew all over the floor
Something You’re Proud of: learning new meal-time skills and putting on my shirts when getting dressed
What advice you would give other students: never give up and work hard despite your challenges
Favorite Hobbies: listening to Country Western music
Best Memories of School: playing “BALL” with everyone
Plans for the Future: coming back to SDSBVI until my next placement
Something you will miss about School: not seeing all my friends
List four adjectives that describe you: happy, funny, fun loving, and friendly
Something you are looking forward to after graduation: being home with my family

**Michael McMillen**, Yankton SD
Best Memories of School: going to Ski for Light
Something You’re Proud of: my family
Plans for the Future: maybe get a job
Favorite Hobbies: listening to music and building things
Funny Experience in School: turning the playground into my farm
What advice you would give other students: to get along

**Kendra Terkildsen**, White Lake SD
Best Memories of School: hanging out with my "dorm family!" and doing new and exciting things with them!
What advice you would give other students: be positive and if something isn't going your way or as planned just think "it could of been worse!"
Something you will miss about School: my dorm family! including most dorm staff!
Something you are looking forward to after graduation: not having to go to class early in the morning
Something You’re Proud of: graduating
Extracurricular Activities: swimming

**John Sauer Jr.**, Aberdeen SD
John is currently a residential student who has attended SDSBVI since 1998. He has also been enrolled at Aberdeen Central High School so graduated so with his class in May.
Best Memories of School: sporting events, gym class, and basketball games and wrestling matches at the Barnett Center
Best Memories of School: going on class trips
Funny Experience in School: the time in the lunch room when someone spilled their plate all over
Plans for the Future: continue to work hard on learning things to help me become independent
List adjectives that describe you: happy, positive, and persistent
What advice you would give other students: listen to your teachers and never give up
“Friend of SDSBVI” Award

Over the years, the school has recognized individuals and organizations that have supported students in a variety of ways. The honorees receive a plaque and their name is added to the large plaque on display in the school lobby. The person selected this year is **Dawn Brush** from Aberdeen and Clark. Dawn has a long history with our school, beginning as a student in 1959 and then working in both our dorms and classrooms. Dawn is currently President of the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which supports many student activities, and was the chief organizer of the Foundation’s “Dinner in the Dark” fundraiser event. She is also a friend and mentor for our students, staff, and families.

Freezin’ for a Reason!

The “Plunging Pioneers” team of **Kendra Terkildsen**, **Jodi Carlsgaard** and **Christy Hulscher** are pictured before running into Lake Minniecho at Wylie Park. Students and staff raised funds to help support the Aberdeen Area Special Olympics.

Civil Service Employee of the Year

No school, especially a residential school, can run effectively without the efforts of Civil Service Employees. Each spring the staff nominates a Civil Service Employee who has gone above and beyond their job responsibilities to provide service to the school and students, to provide exceptional support for their fellow workers, and to be an example to others. It is an honor to be nominated by your peers for outstanding service.

This year the following individuals were nominated:

- **Maintenance**: Ben Bohlander and Greg Anglin
- **Outreach**: Lori Gellhaus
- **Residential Program**: Becky Martell, Nichole Nelson, and Janet Moser
- **Liaison for Services**: Dawn LaMee

This year’s winner **Greg Anglin** has worked in our Maintenance Department for less than a year. He was recognized for his willingness to help students and staff, the respect he shows everyone, and the way he brightens everyone’s day.

Years of Service

Several employees were recently honored for continuous years of service. They include, in the back (left to right): **Jane Mundschenk**, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist® & Instructor, 30 years; **Deb Bretsch**, Residential Child Care Staff, 25 years; and **Sandra Payne**, Instructor, 35 years. Seated in the front (left to right): **H. "Pete" Peterson**, Physical Plant Manager, 30 years; **Lorri Peterson**, Instructor, 25 years; and **Pat Geditz**, Instructor & Librarian, 15 years. Not pictured: **Janet Moser**, Residential Child Care Staff, 20 years and **Tim Fleming**, Instructional Assistant, 15 years.

Special Visitor

This spring Governor Dennis Daugaard made his first trip to the school where Principal Jodi Carlsgaard gave him and his staff a tour. Governor Daugaard had the opportunity to ask questions of our program and visit students, faculty, and staff.
**Students of the Month** (SDSBVI enjoys recognizing students for a job well-done!)

**Jordan Houseman**, Pickstown SD for March. He was recognized for his great attitude, always doing his best in anything he does, making improvements in using a smart phone in orientation & mobility class, and working hard to become a stronger swimmer.

**Jada Madsen**, Aberdeen SD for April. She was recognized for increasing her conversation skills, improvements in learning independent living skills, and for meeting goals with her classroom work.

**Trashawn Howard**, Aberdeen SD for April. He was recognized for his fun sense of humor, being an enthusiastic braille student, improvements in his independent living skills, and for meeting several of his goals.

**Shane Hoffman**, Ashley ND for May. He was recognized for being a positive example and inspiration for all our students and staff. Despite his physical challenges, he always has a smile, a "Hi", or a high five for everyone he greets.

**Madison Spotted Bear**, Aberdeen SD for May. She was nominated for improvements in her travel skills, increasing her conversation skills, and overall becoming more independent.

Congratulations to all of our students!

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**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.

- coordinate the “Artist in Schools” Program
- sponsor Staff Christmas Party
- sponsor Student Projects
- sponsor the Veteran's Day Program
- sponsor Quilt Raffle Fundraiser (made by Jayne Reuer)
- provide school t-shirts for new students
- sponsor the SDSBVI Christmas Tree in the SD State Capitol

You can help the committee by collecting and sending the following to the school.

- Kessler’s and Ken’s Receipts
- Labels for Education
- Loaves 4 Learning from Country Hearth Bread
- Computer Printer Cartridges and Cell Phone Recycling
- Target’s REDCard
- Tyson Project A+
- Pennies for Pioneers
- "Box Tops for Education" coupons

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**Reading Award**

**Michael Wingen** was recognized as the winner in Braille for his age division with the Summer Reading Program sponsored by the SD Braille & Talking Book Program! SDSBVI had nine students that participated with many of them being braille readers.

Congratulations Michael - way to go!

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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.

For more information contact **Jodi Carlsgaard** at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814, or email at jodi.carlsgaard@sdsbvi.northern.edu.
Staff Updates

Welcome: We are pleased to welcome new staff members: Nancy Aman, Cook & Instructional Assistant, Claudean Hluchy, Business Manager, and Steve Kelsey, Transition Specialist.

Saying Good-bye!

Diane Agnitsch and Blaine Jemming, her Braille student, are pictured with the cake he designed for her retirement party. Diane devoted 26 years as an Instructional Assistant and will be remembered for her deep sense of commitment to making a difference in the lives of students and for always being positive and enthusiastic about our school.

Good-bye to Megan Stout who is pictured with the “fun gang” from Mrs. Lorri Peterson’s room (left-right: student’s Henry, Madison, Jada, Megan and Lorri) at her going away party. Megan spent 2 years as an Instructional Assistant.

Staff News & Training

The School believes it is important for staff to have educational opportunities to continue to be leaders. Nancy Aman, Instructional Assistant, Lorri Peterson, Instructor, and Jeanie Schmidt, Intervener, attended Active Learning Conference to get current information on the program. Dawn Brush, Tevan Fischbach, Jane Mundschenk, and Amy Scepaniak attended Embracing Change, the theme of the Dakotas Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Conference, held this spring in Grand Forks, ND. Indira Dillon, Outreach Vision Consultant, attended the Outreach Forum in Indianapolis IN. Jodi Carlsgaard, Principal, attended the SASD Wild West Leadership Conference to network with other professionals in the field of education. Jodi and Amber Steckler, Instructor, also attended Standard Based IEP Training and Elementary SPED Workshop. Jodi and Becky Martell, Dormitory Supervisor, attended Excelling as a Manager or Supervisor Workshop. Jane Mundschenk, Certified O&M Specialist® attended an International Mobility Conference in Montreal Canada. Nichole Nelson, Residential Child Care Worker, attended Crisis Prevention Institute Instructor’s Conference to become re-certified as a trainer for the Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Program.

New Mail and Maintenance Guy

Vincent Stuwe took on new challenges this spring when he started to deliver mail during both Orientation & Mobility and Physical Therapy classes. Jayne Reuer even sewed him a nifty mailbag to help.

Vincent is also pictured spending time with Pete Peterson, Physical Plant Manager, helping out by cleaning door handles and windows.

SPURS: Students enjoyed riding horses this spring with the Special People Using Riding Skills Program (SPURS).
The following received awards at the Program. **Caden Chavez:** Participation Certificates (Classroom, Healthy Kidz Club, Hoops for Heart); **Larissa Enget:** “Overcomer” Award (overcame the challenge of swimming from the deep end to the shallow end for Special Olympics and gaining more confidence in swimming), Participation Certificates (Special Olympics Swimming and Track & Field, Hoops for Heart, On-Campus Job); **Lydia Enget:** Participation Certificates (Goalball, Hoops for Heart, On-Campus Job, Special Olympics Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field); **Jordan Harkless:** Participation Certificates (Hoops for Heart, Project Skills Employment: Culvers); **Hailey Heintzman:** Participation Certificates (Classroom, Special Olympics Swimming, Bowling, and Track & Field); **Shane Hoffman:** Graduation Recognition, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Special Olympics Bowling, On-Campus Job); **Jordan Houseman:** Apartment “Student of the Year”, Dorm Award: Most Improved Boy, “Overcomer” Award (overcame the challenge of swimming 50 M Freestyle during SD Meet), Participation Certificates (Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics Swimming and Bowling, Forensics {NCASB 2nd year}, Goalball, On-Campus Job); **Trashawn Howard:** Participation Certificates (Healthy Kidz Club, Special Olympics Swimming and Track & Field, Classroom: Most Improved Student); **Blaine Jemming:** Braille “Student of the Year”, Participation Certificates (Goalball, Hoops for Heart -Top Fundraiser, Classroom, On-Campus Job, Special Olympics Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field); **Henry Johnson:** Participation Certificate (Classroom Award “Joker”); **Tylor Killspotted:** Participation Certificates (Project Skills Employment: Aberdeen YMCA, Hoops for Heart); **Jada Madsen:** Participation Certificates (Special Olympics Bowling, Classroom Award “Sensory Princess”); **Michael McMillen:** Graduation Recognition, Participation Certificates (Goalball, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field, On-Campus Job, Off Campus Employment: Aspire, Inc); **Ch’oshgai Roanhorse:** Participation Certificate (Classroom); **Quinn Ossanna:** Participation Certificates (Special Olympics Swimming and Track & Field, Hoops for Heart, Healthy Kidz Club, Classroom); **Vincent Stuwe:** Participation Certificates (Special Olympics Swimming and Track & Field, Hoops for Heart, Healthy Kidz Club, On-Campus Job); **Madison Spotted Bear:** Dorm Award: “Most Improved Girl”, Participation Certificate (Classroom Award “Giggle Box”); **Kendra Terkildsen:** Graduation Recognition, “Outstanding Citizenship” Award (given to a student who best represents the qualities of good citizenship), Pin (Swimming: NCASB 6th year), Participation Certificates (Polar Plunge, Hoops for Heart, Project Skills Employment: Bethesda Sharing Center); **Marcus Van Dam:** Forensics: {NCASB 1st year}, Participation Certificates (Goalball, On-Campus Job, Hoops for Heart-Top Fundraiser); **Michael Wingen:** Participation Certificates (Goalball, Special Olympics Swimming and Track & Field, Hoops for Heart, On-Campus Job).

**End of the Year Celebration**

Student Council members and residential staff enjoyed an evening filled with swimming, pizza, games, and only a “little sleep” at the overnighter at the Holiday Inn Express.
Donations
SDSBVI thanks the following individuals or businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
- Special Olympics of SD
- Sioux Falls Empire Lions Club, Sioux Falls SD
- SD Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired (Family Weekend)
- SD Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired (NCASB Trip)
- SD Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired (Summer Program Trip to Pierre SD)

Miscellaneous Donations
- Grandpa Don Dauwen, Aberdeen SD ("Breakfast" outing with students)
- Northern State University (Complimentary Passes to Sporting Events)
- Yelduz Shrine Temple, Aberdeen SD (Circus Tickets)
- Avera St. Luke's Therapy Dept (baked goodies)
- Nancy Aman Family, Aberdeen SD (library story books)
- Todd & Lynette Busch, Alcester SD (Lill's Little Room and Noisy Box)
- Aberdeen Exchange Club (Tickets to David Malmberg Presentation)
- Aberdeen Lions Club and SD Road Trip Program (Arbor Day Trees)
- Thunder Road, Aberdeen SD (VIP gift card)
- Jayne Reuer, Aberdeen SD (hand-made student mail bag)
- Marie Iyotte, St Francis, SD (twin vision books)

Memorial for R.Lee Ginsbach
- Wanita Bullert, Webster SD

Leanne and Judith Wurtz, Brentwood Hutterite Colony donated homemade cookies and fresh garden vegetables!
NCASB

In May three students traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) competition in both Swimming and Forensics against other schools for the blind. There were teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. SDSBVI’s Athletic Director, Christy Hulscher and Coaches Jodi Carlsgaard and Megan Stout accompanied the teams. This experience was funded by the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Results of the Swim Team, coached by Jodi Carlsgaard: Kendra Terkildsen brought home a Gold medal in the 100 M Breaststroke, Silver medal in the 100 M Freestyle and Gold medal in the 50 M Freestyle. Results of the Forensic Team, coached by Megan Stout: Marcus Van Dam (pictured left) participated in the “4 Minute Informative Speech” with a speech he wrote about his time at Ski for Light in Deadwood SD. Jordan Houseman participated in the “Great Speeches” category with Franklin D. Roosevelt’s speech about Pearl Harbor. All students did a great job and represented our school well!

Thanks to the Foundation for giving us the opportunity to travel to the NCASB forensics and swim meet in Indianapolis, Indiana. We really loved the whole experience. We had a great time visiting so many wonderful places and we were able to meet so many great people. Thank you again, from Kendra, Marcus, Jordan, Jodi, Megan, and Christy

Award for Excellence Finalist

Each year at the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) Swim Meet in Indianapolis, the Missouri School for the Blind Boosters Club presents the "Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award for Excellence" to an outstanding senior who not only excelled academically but in extracurricular activities as well. We are excited to announce for the first time SDSBVI had a finalist! Kendra Terkildsen, a student from White Lake SD, was a finalist for the award. Kendra was nominated for her accomplishments and involvement by her Swim Coach, Jodi Carlsgaard; Case Teacher, Lela Holcomb; and Case Manager, Barb Kelly. Pictured: Kendra receiving her plaque and monetary donation from her Swim Coach Jodi Carlsgaard.

Coaches Recognized

Athletic Director Christy Hulscher is pictured saying “thank you” to Megan Stout, our Forensics Coach for the last two years, was acknowledged for the success of the program under her leadership. Megan has moved to Minnesota and she will be missed. Jodi Carlsgaard, our Swim Coach for the last six years, was recognized for her efforts making the Swim program and our student athletes so successful. Jodi will be stepping down as coach, but will continue as our school’s Principal.

Goalball Tournament

This spring we hosted a Forensics, Swimming, and Goalball Tournament with a team from North Dakota joining in the fun!
Hands-on Science

Student Marcus Van Dam is pictured with his tactile solar system he made and put up on the school wall.

Elementary students Caden Chavez, Trashawn Howard, and Quinn Ossanna are pictured learning about the Solar System using a model demonstrating the sun and how the eight planets rotate around the sun.

Arbor Day

Students and staff celebrated the day by planting two birch trees and a Little Leaf Linden on campus. The students, with the help of the maintenance staff, were able to explore roots, depth of the holes, and girth of the trees, as well as actually shoveling the dirt. Thank you to Aberdeen Lions Club and South Dakota Road Trip Program for donating the trees!

Special Olympics

Our athletes truly exemplified the Olympian Oath “Let Me Win, But If I Can Not Win, Let Me Be Brave in the Attempt” in & out of the pool, on & off the track, and for all of our activities. Way to go!!!

**Area Special Olympic Aquatics Meet** results included the following: Larissa Enget: 1st 15 M Flotation, 1st 15 M Walk; Lydia Enget: 2nd 15 M Flotation, 2nd 15 M Walk; Hailey Heintzman: 2nd 15 M Flotation, 1st 15 M Walk; Trashawn Howard: 1st 10 M Unassisted Swim, 1st 15 M Walk; Blaine Jemming: 2nd 15 M Unassisted Swim, 1st 15 M Walk; Quinn Ossanna: 1st 10M Assisted Swim, 2nd 15 M Walk; Vincent Stuwe: 1st 15 M Flotation, 3rd 15 M Walk.

A SUMMER OF FUN & LEARNING

During the months of June and July, students took part in an exciting Summer Program at the SDSBVI. The emphasis of the program was to provide opportunities for students to prevent regression of skills during the long summer break and focus on learning the necessary skills of blindness.

Assistive Technology  Recreation and Leisure Skills
Career Education and Transition  Self-Determination Skills
Compensatory Academic Skills  Sensory Efficiency Skills
Independent Living Skills  Social Interaction Skills
Orientation and Mobility

Students spent time learning and participating in activities they would not normally have the opportunity to accomplish. When a student is blind or visually impaired, special emphasis is placed on giving as many hands-on experiences as possible to help them develop a solid base of knowledge.

Transition Week
By Dawn Backer, SDRC Director
(Expanded Core Curriculum: Career Education/Transition and Self-Determination Skills)

Six boys and one girl, between the ages of 15-18, attended Transition Week, held at the SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Sioux Falls from June 14-18, 2015. The camp kicked off with Joe Strechay, Program Manager from American Foundation for the Blind, CareerConnect® Program. Joe talked with the students about increasing confidence, marketing one’s skills, setting and achieving goals, and making connections to get jobs. Students attended Skills of Blindness classes where they learned about the latest in assistive technology, adaptive sports, prepared a meal, and built a table top bean bag toss game in home mechanics. Students also participated in a community service activity, where they made “Dipped Bones” to donate to the Sioux Falls Humane Society. Students learned some independent living skills throughout the week by managing money for food and activities, staying in the dorms at Augustana University, and using public transportation.

Family Support Group
In July the group met at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center for an afternoon of swimming, treats, and meeting others.
Summer Car Wash Fundraiser
Students and staff enjoyed learning about holding a car wash to raise funds to help students with visual impairments attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Visiting a Farm
During our summer program, students and staff enjoyed an outing to the hobby farm of Chad, Sandra, Sidney, and Mckenzie Bierman. The students got to see, feed, and explore horses, goats, chickens, heifers, donkeys, and dogs. They also enjoyed time to swing on a tire.

Furry Feeling
Joe Galbraith, Conservation Officer with the SD Game, Fish and Parks Department, brought in animal furs for our summer students to see and feel.

Visit to the Vet
Students learned about caring for dogs and cats from Dr. Darcie when they visited the Northern Plains Animal Health.
“Tiptoe Thru the T’s: Transition and Technology”

With funding from the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired and planning and inspiration by our Outreach Vision Consultants, the 5th Annual Family Weekend was held June 13-14. Eleven parents and children attended the activities held in Sioux Falls on the SD School for the Deaf campus with families spending the night at the Country Inn & Suites.

Parents and students:

🎉 enjoyed “Outdoor Campus” activates, games, and kite flying
🎉 learned about helping student’s access and utilizing technology
🎉 learned about how to prepare for post-secondary activities

Special thank you to

🎉 Dawn Backer, Manager of SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Joe Strechay, CareerConnect® Program Manager at American Foundation for the Blind shared their knowledge and experiences on employment, vocational rehabilitation, transition, education, and mentoring
🎉 Jonathan Eckrich, President, and Lori Dahlquist, Speech Pathologist/Audiologist of Adaptation, Inc, shared information about communication aids and assistive technology
🎉 Technology Panel: Lance & Sarah DeHaai, Parents, and Dan Treffz, Superintendent, Miller School District
🎉 Also thanks to Colton Dillon, Indira Dillon, Harlan Dillon, Ardell Fiedler, Marjorie Kaiser, Rose Moehring, Jane Mundschken, Marge Robertson, Amy Scepaniak, Julie VanDover, and Michelle & Ben Zarr donating their time to make it a successful weekend.

ESY Summer Program - Expanded Core Curriculum Areas:

Recreation & Leisure, Social Interaction Skills, and Independent Living Skills

In addition to spending time on learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, students in the dormitories with Dale Aman, Deb Bretsch, Lynette Gisi, Jane Jessen, Barb Kelly, Becky Martell, Janet Moser, Nichole Nelson, and Danielle Vincent (Substitutes: Dawn Brush, Penny Krogstrand, Tawney Miller, Jayne Reuer, Danyelle Sanders, Kathryn Wagner, and Bethany Zerr) kept summer weeks busy with day-to-day activities of room cleaning, bathing, laundry, work skills, and fun activities.

🎉 going to Storybook Land for craft, picnics, theater productions, and rides
🎉 having air hockey tourneys
🎉 playing at and going to concerts at Melgaard Park and looking around at “Arts in the Park”
🎉 making craft projects, playing bingo, and games
🎉 having weekly cook-outs
🎉 going to Thunder Road: go-karts & bumper boats
🎉 playing on the school’s fabulous playground
🎉 having pizza and birthday parties
🎉 going bowling and playing Wii bowling
🎉 going swimming at the Aquatics Center
🎉 having movie marathons
🎉 appreciating the “Loving Care” from our Nurses
🎉 enjoying GREAT food provided by our kitchen staff: Nancy Aman, Heidi Lemke, and Juanita Misslitz and substitutes: Niki Gellhaus, Ray Mehlhoff, and Natasha Wiest
In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, students in **Group 2** with **Tim Fleming** as group leader, with **Katelyn Kipps** and **Whitney Heupel** as helpers filled the weeks with fun activities:

- Learning how to do laundry, fold towels, make beds, and hang up and button shirts
- Learning social skills (listening, playing together, table manners, “please” and “thank you”)
- Learning how to cook simple snacks and cut up food with a “rocker knife”
- Exploring textures, sounds, color, shapes, smells, and science
- Exploring Storybook Land, Wylie Park (train, balloon, and roller coaster rides) and Melgaard Park
- Enjoying calendar time along with math, reading, spelling, and vocabulary activities
- Touring Northern Plains Animal Health
- Going on field trip to Aberdeen Area Humane Society
- Playing on the playground
- Making crafts
- Learning swimming at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center
- Making breakfast and the clean-up
- Doing “work skills” (shred paper and crush pop cans)
- Participating in many different sports and leisure activities
- Going on nature walks
- Continuing special services daily
- Learning to bowl

**Playground Fun**

**Dog Guide Training**

Mike Goehring from Guiding Eyes for the Blind helped students learn about dog guides and the training required for both dogs and users. Students also experienced the “Juno walk” with a harness.

**Being outside, active, learning and loving it!**
In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, students in **Group 3** had **Janel Ludwig** as the group leader, with **Amber Steckler** and **Allie MacDonald** as helpers, filled their summer with fun.

- having FUN going fishing and swimming
- shopping for groceries and art supplies
- learning arts and crafts
- attending a play
- visited a farm and greenhouse
- literature activities that included reading, journaling, and writing thank-you cards
- learning activities for leisure time entertainments (yard, table, and card games)
- preparing breakfasts (cold, microwave, and cooked) and cleaning up the kitchen
- learning about feelings, “how to be a good friend”, and social communication
- making individual pies and s’mores
- sampling a variety of new/unusual fruits and vegetables
- career exploration and hands-on work tasks

In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, students in **Group 1** had **Lorri Peterson** as leader, **Jeanie Schmidt** as Intervener, **Don Dauwen** as Foster Grandparent, and **Nancy Aman** and **Hillary Filler** as helpers filled their summer weeks with fun activities.

- eating out
- playing on the playground at recess
- swimming at the YMCA
- riding the train at Storybook Land
- learning and singing new songs
- learning about Pioneers at the Museum
- enjoying movie and popcorn day
- going to Storybook Land for “Fables and Fairy Tales”
- enjoying leisure skills: board, card and video games
- loving music with **Phyllis Heier**, our wonderful Music Teacher
In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, students in Group 4 had Pat Geditz and Lela Holcomb as leaders; with Bethany Zerr and Denise Dulik as helpers, and Anna Woern, Jr. Field Teacher filled their summer weeks with fun activities.

- Explored programs and services like Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, South Dakota Rehabilitation Center, American Foundation for the Blind, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Project Skills, and our school’s website.
- Explored and discussed ways to use leisure time constructively, including playing goalball.
- Explored eating at restaurants and independently reading menus, ordering, talking with the servers, paying the bill, and even calculating a tip.
- Explored individual strengths and needs while talking about IEP and transition processes, along with setting goals for education, employment, and living.
- Discussed and practiced self-advocacy and self-determination skills.
- Researched individual visual impairment and gave group presentations.
- Discussed accommodations in school and on the job.
- Learned about South Dakota and Alaska.
- Discussed and practiced various social skill scenarios.
- Learned about many skills of blindness.
- Checked the weather and news daily.
- Completed arts and crafts projects.
- Completed journal writing daily.
- Prepared hot and cold breakfast items.
- Covered many topics in the Expanded Core Curriculum.
- Explored Flag Day and 4th of July activities.
- Ordered pizza, prepared lunches, and planned a picnic.

Community “Field Trips”

Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about Aberdeen on community “Field Trips” to the Aberdeen Regional Airport & Ride Line office, Alexander Mitchell Library, Aquatics Center, Aberdeen Area Humane Society, Aberdeen Sport Recreation, Kessler’s grocery store, Storybook Land & Wylie Park, and Twist Cone.

“Crafting Coach”

Megan Rosendahl, Digital Content Coordinator and the "Crafting Coach" at the Aberdeen American News visited Group 4 to help the students make a "button tree". In addition to helping the students complete a craft project, Megan also shared information about jobs at the newspaper. Her crafting segment is available online at http://www.aberdeennews.com.
**Expanded Core Curriculum Areas**

**Compensatory Academic & Sensory Efficiency Skills**

- Michael in class with Tevye Fischbach and Diane Agnitsch completing his Braille assignments

- Hillary Filler helping Henry with looking over his daily schedule

**Expanded Core Curriculum Area**

**Orientation & Mobility**

- Dominick trying the "PowerBraille" with the refreshable Braille display in Tech class

- Vincent with Amy Scepaniak

**Expanded Core Curriculum Area**

**Independent Living Skills**

- Lydia with Indira Dillon

- Henry with Amy Scepaniak

- Dominick and Jordan with Arlel Fiedler

**Expanded Core Curriculum: Assistive Technology**

- Hillary Filler helping Henry with looking over his daily schedule

- Vincent with Amy Scepaniak

**Expanded Core Curriculum Area**

**Orientation & Mobility**

- Lydia with Indira Dillon

- Henry with Amy Scepaniak

- Dominick and Jordan with Arlel Fiedler

- Vincent with Amy Scepaniak
“Catch-up on your Dreams in 2015” continued from page 1

The Planning Committee of Mary Ann Appel, Dawn Brush, Marjorie Kaiser, and Dawn LaMee want to send out a special Thank You to Jamie Uttenhove (catering), Diane Ketterling (accommodations), and all the staff at the Ramada (pizza party and wonderful hospitality), SD Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired (picnic Lunch), Ken’s SuperFair Foods (wonderful picnic meal), Redfield Lions Club (donation), SDSBVI maintenance staff (getting the school ready for guests), and to “Everyone who Attended” (helping make it so successful)!

Alumni & Former Staff Directory: For those who submitted their information for the Alumni/Former Staff Directory a copy will be sent to you soon. If anyone else would like a copy or are interested in having your information added to the Directory, contact Dawn LaMee by email dawn.lamee@sdsbvi.northern.edu or at 1-888-275-3814 or 605-626-2580.

Start thinking about the 120th Reunion that will be held in August of 2020!
Change Service Requested

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“Going Fishing”
During the summer students and staff had fun fishing at Wylie Lake in Aberdeen. Thanks to Dave and Justin Scepaniak who volunteered to help the students learn how to catch a fish, although not very big! Preston Brue caught the”Biggest” and “Littlest”