New Look!

Staff and students opened the new school year with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a “Grand Entrance” for the newly remodeled and completed front door. The new front entrance is a reflection of the work going on inside. Unlike our previous 1960 façade, this entry tells parents and visitors to expect modern educational practices. Our classrooms provide assistive technology, research-based practice, and innovation, focusing attention on teaching skills that will prepare the child for a lifetime.

Update from Statewide Study

By Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent

This school year we will be working to implement the recommendations made by our consultant Dr. Phil Hatlen, and the Statewide Task Force. The goals come from The National Agenda, but the plan comes from our Task Force. These steps will help us meet our mandate to ensure that all students with vision loss receive an appropriate education in South Dakota.

**Goal 1**: We will be working more closely with the Birth to Three Connections Program to provide cross training and increase visits to families.

**Goal 2**: We are working with the newly formed South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI) and helping interested parents get together. The American Foundation for the Blind new website Family Connect (www.afb.com) is a wonderful resource.

**Goal 3**: We are working with Northern State University to explore options for training teachers of the visually impaired and with other universities to provide a certification program in Orientation and Mobility.

**Goal 4**: We are requesting two additional outreach positions to reduce the size of caseloads and drive time to allow Outreach Vision Consultants see students more frequently.
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 and friends with a memorial.
- **Devise of Assets:** Share your real estate and/or investments.

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

**Foundation Members** (Joined from 3/25/08-9/1/08)
- Sharon Williams Wood, Apple Valley MN
- Aberdeen Lions Club, Aberdeen SD
- Tom and Diane Agnitsch, Aberdeen SD
- Charles and Sandra Taskerud, Mahomet IL
- Martin Pfotenhauer, Aberdeen SD
- Parkston Lions Club, Parkston SD
- Grote Roofing Co, Inc, Aberdeen SD
- Duane and Juanita Sanger, Redfield SD
- Kathleen Hicks, Sioux Falls SD
- BAE Systems, Aberdeen SD
- Clark Lions Club, Clark SD
- Midwest Credits, Inc, Aberdeen SD
- Lloyd H Hansen, Brookings SD
- Klepetka Adv. Specialty Co, Aberdeen SD
- Vance and Shirley Masteller, Glenham SD
- Jane Mundschenk, Aberdeen SD
- Eddie and Kelli Timanus, Oak Hill VA
- Bruce and Janet Johnson, Aberdeen SD
- Jason and Heather Grebner, Aberdeen SD
- Barnett Vision Center, LLP, Aberdeen SD
- Dallas Wilkinson, OD, Hot Springs SD
- Michael Klimisch, Sioux Falls SD
- Jamie Drageset, Aberdeen SD
- Eureka Lions Club, Eureka SD
- Ronald Rosssknecht, Rapid City SD
- Sharon Lee, Aberdeen SD
- Pat R. Geditz, Ipswich SD

**Memorial for Marvin Milbrandt**
- Elaine Milbrandt, Aberdeen SD

**Lifetime**
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD
- Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD
- Charles and Ginny Clark, Aberdeen SD

**SDFBVI Foundation Mini-Grants**

The following Mini-Grants were awarded this year:
- Support the Parent Support Group activities in the Aberdeen area; and
- Support the Parent Support Group activities in the Sioux Falls area.
Consultants’ Corner

Books Featuring Characters with Blindness and Visual Impairment

Jenny’s Magic Wand by Helen and Bill Hermann Grades K-4

Jenny worries about going to a public school after attending a school for children who are blind.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor Grades 5-7

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

No Finish Line: My Life As I See It by Marla Runyan and Sally Jenkins Grades 7-12

Marla Runyan, the first legally blind athlete to compete in the Olympic Games, shares her story from diagnosis with Stargardt’s disease at age nine through her career in track and field.

APH Materials—Recreation and Leisure: http://www.aph.org

Web Chase is an originally designed board game by APH that is intended to develop important tactile skills within a fun, recreational context. As players navigate their hungry spiders through an insect-laden web, they learn to trace various raised lines, identify point symbols, and discriminate texture and shapes of various prey. Other concepts and skills developed include visual and tactual scanning, directionality, one-to-one correspondence, turn taking, counting, reading, sorting/organizing, problem solving, strategic planning, interpreting legends/keys, symbolic understanding, and following directions. Web Chase’s combined visual and tactile presentation makes it accessible to all players regardless of visual ability. It is a game of luck and skill and can be tailored for players’ abilities. Recommended ages: 5 years and up

Scattered Crowns is a fun, versatile board game that encourages young children, especially those with visual impairments and blindness, to develop tactile skills. As players search for crowns with specific attributes (band textures-smooth, rough, or striped; number of jewels-1, 2, or 3; number of points-3, 4, or 5), they will practice the skills of texture/shape/size discrimination, tactile memory, systematic searching, and spatial concepts. Other concepts and skills practiced during game play include counting skills, turn taking, sorting/organizing, and social interaction skills. Recommended ages: 5 years and up. These products are available from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for purchase and can also be borrowed from your area Outreach Vision Consultant.

FamilyConnect is an online, multimedia community created by AFB and NAPVI. The site gives parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, to share stories and concerns, and a link to local resources. The site also features a mom-authored blog, inspiring video testimonials from families (including South Dakota families), and articles authored by parents and experts in the field of blindness on multiple disabilities, technology, education, and more. This site offers an array of resources, from personal to professional, that families will find very useful to assist them in raising their children from birth to adulthood. Check out this wonderful website at www.familyconnect.org.

WEB SITES—kids, parents, and teachers

unmuseum.mus.pa.us/crr: In the Children’s Reading Room you will find a selection of stories you can print out and read to your children over and over again. Some of the characters have put their own homepage up on the web here for you to visit too.

www.growingstrong.org: This website provides resources for parents of blind children through links for vision related websites and e-mail discussion groups regarding the eye and visual impairment, blindness and early childhood, and meeting your child’s educational needs.
Aberdeen Area Family Support Group and SD NAPVI

The group met several times over the past few months. In April, Elaine Fritz, a parent of a child who is deaf and blind from the Sioux Falls area, shared her experiences in how to develop supporting friendships and the importance of finding people to connect with. In June, a picnic was held with time for kids to play on the SDSBVI playground and parents could network with others. The children even got Superintendent Marje Kaiser wet while throwing water balloon at her! In July, Keith Bundy, the Director of Student Development and ADA Academic Coordinator at Dakota State University, shared about the importance of independence in growing up as a blind person. In August, the group met at the Aberdeen Aquatic Center for an evening of swimming, pizza, and connecting with others. Rhiannon Zahn gets the award for braving the “yellow slide”!

SD NAPVI, a newly formed Chapter of NAPVI, was organized. As a result of this, a mini-grant was submitted to the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired to help and encourage parents to join NAPVI. Anyone can join the Chapter by simply becoming a member of NAPVI. The cost to become a member of NAPVI is $40. The Foundation has agreed to “match” any interested parent by paying half of their membership for the first year. If you would like more information about joining this group of parents, its activities, or possible steps in the development of a similar group in your area, contact Amy Scepaniak at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814 or email her at scepania@sdsbvi.northern.edu

For more information on NAPVI, go to http://www.spedex.com/napvi/

SD NAPVI Board Members
Co-Presidents: Karla Schlosser, 1424 N Arch, Aberdeen SD 57401, 605-225-5482, dschlossr@msn.com
Elaine Fritz, 500 Kyle Ave, Baltic SD 57003, 605-529-6052, efritz@siouxfalls.org
Co-Vice Presidents: Kelli Meister, 511 N High, Aberdeen SD 57401, 605-225-3432, rkmeister@nvc.net
Krystal Stuwe, 202 4th Ave., Ipswich SD 57451, 605-426-6224, lksstuwe@valleytel.net
Secretary: Joleen Schaffer, 1803 S Lincoln St., Aberdeen SD 57401, 605-380-3332, vortwork@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Rhiannon Zahm, 36755 162nd St., Cresbard SD 57435, 605-380-9375, rizzzhahm@yahoo.com

Sioux Falls Area Family Support Group

On Sunday October 26, 2008, Indira Dillon and Julie Van Dover will be hosting a gathering in Sioux Falls for families of children with visual impairments. Sandy Ellenbolt from South Dakota Parent Connection will be speaking to the group. Parents will be given an opportunity to network with one another, and a meal will be served. For parents who often wonder if they are the only family with a child who has a visual impairment, this will be a great opportunity to talk with other and discover that they are not alone.

Information about this will be coming out soon, but if you have any questions, you may contact either Indira at 605-995-8191 by email at indira.dillon@sdsbvi.northern.edu or Julie at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814 or by email at vandovej@sdsbvi.northern.edu. Daycare will be available for children, RSVP by October 17, 2008. We look forward to seeing you there!
Congratulations Graduates!
We were proud to present diplomas to two of our students during ceremonies held on May 22. Our commencement speaker was Tom Agnitsch, Director; NE Area United Way. Regent Dr. James Hansen was also on campus representing the Board of Regents to confer diplomas to our graduates.

Our graduates shared the following thoughts about the SDSBVI.

**Chantell Marie Heath:** Piedmont SD
Most Memorable Teacher: Coach Bob McLaughlin and Mrs. Geditz
Extracurricular Activities: Swimming and Track
Most Valuable Experience in School: My search for a job
Favorite Hobbies: Reading and Writing Stories
Favorite Foods: Chicken Fritters
Something You are Proud of: Going to Central High School
Heroes: Trina Jenkins and Coach Bob McLaughlin
Plans for the Future: To go to Meade High School for one more year to get extra help in Math and English.
Other Thoughts: I want to thank all my teachers for the help and support. I am going to miss you!

**Kimberly Dawn Beckler:** Hermosa SD
Best Memories of School: Making Lunch in ADL
Extracurricular Activities: Swimming and Goalball
Most Memorable Teacher: Jane Ann Leonard
Favorite Hobbies: Watching CMT and Movies
Most Funny Experience in School: Working at my campus jobs
Plans for the Future: To live at home with my parents
Favorite Foods: Chicken, Potatoes, and Tacos
Other Thoughts: I will miss everyone at the school, but am glad to be going home to see Mom, Dad, and Jenny.

*More than Memories… In Knowledge Comes Wisdom*  
Class Motto
All Night Long!
Students and staff members stayed up all night at the Holiday Inn Express to enjoy a fun filled evening. Several were able to make it through the night without sleep before enjoying a warm breakfast. Time in the pool and on the slides of the indoor aquatics park, followed by pizza, movies, games, and other activities fueled the fun for this “end of the year” celebration.

NCASB Meet
The SDSBVII students competed on the campus of the Illinois School for the Blind in Jacksonville, Illinois against swimmers from North Central Association of Schools for the Blind. Teams competing were Indiana, Tennessee, Kansas, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kentucky, and South Dakota. Swim Team (coached by Jodi Carlsgaard) earned the team 6 points with everyone swimming their season’s best times. **Derek Turner:** 200M Freestyle (5:58.83) (2 pts), 100M Freestyle (2:20.72), and 100M Backstroke (2:59.25) (2 pts); **Wade Turner:** 200M Freestyle (5:58.13) (1 pt), 100M Freestyle (2:44.76), and 100M Backstroke (3:31.89) (1 pt); **Emery Long Crow:** 200M Freestyle (7:30.73), 100M Freestyle (3:34.69), and 100M Backstroke (3:57.62). Forensics Team (coached by Candice Lee) with **Analís Dannen** being our only competitor she earned an overall 2nd place finish, with 3 performances in front of 3 different judges when she gave her original 4-minute research piece.

It was a great opportunity for students to compete against and to socialize with other teens with vision impairments. In addition to the competition, the weekend included dances, awards banquet, great food, and opportunities to stop at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois on the way home.
“Taking the Plunge”
With an air temperature of 38, water temperature of 44, and an overall wind chill of 25, conditions were not necessarily “balmy” but Jodi Carlsgaard (Pioneer Polar Bear), Derek Turner (Pioneer Crabby), and Principal Mark Krogstrand (Pioneer Penguin) took the plunge into Lake Minniecho at Wylie Park to support the Aberdeen Area Special Olympics. Students and staff took the challenge and raised over $780 to get in the water, dressed in a favorite costume, and “warm cheers” from those who watched all the plungers. The favorite spot to be was in the hot tub after getting out of the water!

“Friend of SDSBVI” Award
Over the years the South Dakota School for the Blind & Visually Impaired has recognized employers, volunteers, parents, legislators, and organizations as "Friends of SDSBVI". The School recently selected Charlie Clark as a “Friend of SDSBVI”. Charlie has provided time and expertise to the School’s Foundation since joining it in 1999. He has served as Treasurer since 2000 and is also chair of the nominating committee, to find new Board members.

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:
- coordinate the “Artist in Residence” Program;
- sponsor Staff Appreciation Activities;
- purchase t-shirts for students attending our Summer Program;
- sponsor karaoke music during the SDSBVI Forensics, Goalball, and Swim Meet; and
- give out “Welcome Bags” to new parents.

You can help the Committee by collecting and sending the following to the School
- Kessler’s, Ken’s and Econo-Foods Receipts;
- Campbell’s Soup Labels;
- Computer printer cartridges;
- Pennies for the “Pennies for Pioneers” Program;
- "Box Tops for Education" coupons; and
- UPC codes from Our Family products.

You can also assist the School by designating the SDSBVI in Target’s “Dollars for Schools” Program. The Committee also sells School mugs ($5), Lanyards ($4), and shirts.

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 her at lameed@sdsbvi.northern.edu
Student News

Student Council Notes
Thanks to the efforts of many students the Council has:

☞ worked at the Family Y Boys’ Basketball Tourney concession stand with the Aberdeen Lioness Club,
☞ attended an “Irish Celebration” at the Red Rooster Coffee House,
☞ hosted a social and dance during the home forensic, goalball, and swim meet,
☞ enjoyed the “End of the Year” overnight celebration at Holiday Inn Express,
☞ sold Shamrock Pins to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Congratulations to Clara Wren for being the first member to sell all her pins, and
☞ continue to collect expired hunting licenses for resale.

Students of the Quarters

Hailey Hale was honored as the “Student of the Quarter” for the 3rd Nine Weeks. Hailey was recognized for her development in the areas of reading, communication, eating skills, and her ever-widening curiosity of the things around her. Congratulations, Hailey!

Analis Dannen was recognized as the “Student of the Quarter” for the 4th Nine Weeks. Analis was selected for her work in Orientation & Mobility with assisted devices and her efforts during the NCASB forensics competition.

Chamber Music / Orchestra Style
Courtesy of NSU, students in Mrs. Heier’s music classes had the opportunity to hear a special presentation of the French Chamber Orchestra at the NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center.

“Jr. Lion”

By Stacy Richardson
The Student Council has initiated a “Jr. Lion” program in association with the Aberdeen Lions Club. Derek Turner was chosen to attend the Lions meetings to share with the others Student Council members what it means to be involved in a service club. The idea is that it will help everyone gain a greater understanding of what weekly meetings are like and to give them an opportunity to meet and socialize with other club members. According to Sue Birrenkott, SDSBVI Transition Specialist and Lion Member, “Derek seems to be enjoying the opportunity to learn about and engage in some community service programs, including listening to guest speakers and participating in fund raising events”. The Club anticipates that by allowing students to participate it could help them work on various skills of blindness related to orientation and mobility, independent living and communication skills.

Sioux Falls Children’s Theatre
Led by Aberdeen native, Rose Ann Kelly, the Sioux Falls Children’s Theatre (SFCT) group was on campus in May, thanks to a collaborative effort between the “Arts and Special Activities” Committee, the School, and the SD Arts Council, for a day of workshops followed by a troupe performance. Each student had the opportunity to enjoy a small group workshop in the morning by being an active participant in thespian activities. In the afternoon students worked on their skills of audience participation while watching a SFCT skit about friends, temper, getting along, and helping others.

The smallest good deed is greater than the grandest good intention.
**Speak Out Pioneers!** Under the direction of Forensics Coach Candice Lee, and with the support of staff members, the annual all-school event featured students sharing their forensics piece or a slice of their favorite poem.
Welcome!
We are pleased to welcome Stacy Richardson, as our new Temporary Outreach Secretary.

Congratulations!
During the Association of the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and Vision Conference held in May in Grand Forks ND the Dakota Chapter of AER recognized individuals for year of membership in the organization. Sandra Payne, Technology Instructor was recognized for 15 years and Martin Pfotenauer, Orientation & Mobility Specialist was awarded for 25 years.

Years of Service
The following employees were honored for continuous years of service (left to right) Raymond Mehlhoff, Food Service Supervisor, 10 years; Lela Holcomb, Instructor, 25 years; Candice Lee, Instructor, 15 years; Shelley Teal, Houseparent, 20 years; Jeanne Bierman, Instructional Assistant, 15 years; Kathryn Prouse, Houseparent, 20 years; Jodi Carlsgaard, Instructor, 5 years; Dale Aman, Houseparent, 20 years. Not pictured R. Lee Ginsbach, Business Manager, 25 years; and Tevan Fischbach, Instructor, 30 years.

Farewell and Good Luck!
Trina Jenkins, a member of the residential staff for the last four years and a student at NSU, decided to pursue her degree in nursing with SDSU in Brookings. She will be missed for all she contributed to the school. We wish her the best with her new opportunity!

Career Service Employee of the Year
No school, especially a residential school, can run effectively without the efforts of Career Service Employees. Each spring the staff nominates a Career Service Employee who has gone 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 seven individuals were nominated:
Residential Staff Members: Kathy Prouse, Shelley Teal, and Katrina Jenkins
Maintenance Staff: Harlow “Pete” Peterson and Richard Blondo
Outreach: Sue Birrenkott

This year’s winner is Richard Blondo, Maintenance Staff. He has worked at the School for over 2 years and was recognized for his excellent skills, work ethic, and friendliness toward students and staff. Congratulations Richard!
Sports and Activities

Pioneer Meet

The Forensics, Goalball, and Swim Teams were pleased to host our friends from North Dakota and Minnesota for a whirlwind weekend. During the Forensics competition Wade Turner and Analis Dannen, and our other participants from ND and MN, each presented their pieces for the enjoyment of the spectators and scrutiny of the judges. Swim team results: Derek Turner: 1st 100M Backstroke, 1st 50M Freestyle, 1st 100M Freestyle, 1st 200M Freestyle, and 1st 4x400M Relay; Wade Turner: 2nd 100M Backstroke, 3rd 50M Freestyle, 2nd 100M Freestyle, 2nd 200M Freestyle, and 1st 4x200M Relay; Emery Long Crow: 6th 100M Backstroke, 6th 50M Freestyle, 6th 100M Freestyle, 6th 200M Freestyle, and 1st 4x400M Co-Ed Relay. On the Goalball court the SDSBVI teams (Wade, Emery, and Isaac from ND) and (Kim, Clara, Analis) each earned 2nd place trophies. During the evening students enjoyed a pizza party and an opportunity to check out the Red Rooster Coffee Shop, a local eatery and music, art, and culture spot. A special thanks and acknowledgement for our coaches, Ms. Lee (Forensics), Mrs. Carlsgaard (Swimming), and Mrs. Fischbach (Goalball) for all their work with the athletes and organizing the events and to all who helped run the events.

Special Olympics

At their first swim event, held at the NSU Barnett Center Swimming Pool, our Special Olympians did GREAT! Swimmers included Emery Long Crow, Jeremy Bruns, Riley Schaffer, Jacob Bieber, Johnny Sauer, Kimberly Beckler, Clara Wren, and Mariah DeMarrias.


YEAR-END STUDENT AWARDS
The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Aberdeen, gave awards to the following students at their annual Awards Banquet.

Randy Baseler: Most Improved Student in the Boy's Dorm Award; Kim Beckler: Graduation Recognition, “Outstanding Citizenship” Award (given to a student who best represents the qualities of good citizenship), Sigma Alpha Iota Outstanding Music Student Award, Lettering in Special Olympics (4th year), Olympics Participation Awards, Lettering in Goalball (4th year), and Goalball Participation Certificate; Jacob Bieber: Special Olympics Participation Awards; Jeremy Bruns: Braille “Student of the Year”, Lettering in Special Olympics (4th year), and Special Olympics Participation Awards; Analis Dannen: Region IV Music Contest Excellent Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble & Piano), Lettering in Music (3rd year), O&M Certificate of Achievement, Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate, Lettering in Swimming, Lettering in Forensics (3rd year), Lettering in Track & Field (3rd year), Lettering in Goalball, Track & Field Certificate, Goalball Participation Certificate, Forensics Team Participation Certificate, and Music Certificate; Mariah DeMarrias: Most Improved Student in the Girl's Dorm Award, and Special Olympics Participation Awards; Hailey Hale: Classroom Participation Certificate; Book It Reading Certificate, Most Colorful, and Most Overall Improved Awards; Chantell Heath: Apartment “Student of the Year” Award, and Graduation Recognition; Shane Hoffman: Special Olympics Participation Awards; Lacey Killingsworth: Lettering in Track & Field (4th year), and Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate; Emery Long Crow: Region IV Music Contest Certificate “Superior” for Vocal Ensemble, Lettering in Special Olympics (3rd year), Special Olympics Participation Awards, and Goalball Participation Certificate; Johnny Sauer: Special Olympics Participation Awards, Classroom Participation Awards, Book It Reading Certificate, Special Olympics Participation Awards, Graduating from Elementary to Middle School, and Hallmark Card Award (for making Birthday Cards for students and staff); Riley Schaffer: Special Olympics Participation Awards; Grady Schlosser: Classroom Participation Certificate, Book It Reading Certificate, Most Enthusiastic, and “I was looking for you” Award; Derek Turner: Region IV Music Contest Excellent Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Lettering in Music (5th year), Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate, Certificate for Serving as a Junior Lion in the Aberdeen Lions Club, Lettering in Goalball-Student Manager (4th year), Lettering in Track & Field (4th year), Lettering in Music, Lettering in Swimming (3rd year), Goalball Participation Certificate-Student Manager, Track & Field Certificate, Music Certificate, and Swimming Team Certificate; Wade Turner: Region IV Music Contest Excellent Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Lettering in Music (5th year), Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate, Certificate of Appreciation from the SD National Guard, Lettering in Goalball (6th year), Lettering in Track & Field, Goalball Participation Certificate, Track & Field Certificate, Music Certificate, and Forensics Team Participation Certificate; Clara Wren: Lettering in Special Olympics (2nd year), Special Olympics Participation Awards, Lettering in Goalball (1st year), and Goalball Participation Certificate; KrisLynn Zahn: Classroom Participation Certificate; Book It Reading Certificate, Most Improved Traveler, and Most Contagious Smile.
Donations
The School would like to thank the following individuals or businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
Sigma Alpha Iota Gamma Tau Chapter - NSU Music Fraternity, Aberdeen (music program)
Rosebud WELCA, Lemmon SD (student activities)
Arts & Special Activities Committee (entertainment at social for the forensics/goalball/swim meet)
Wal-Mart, Aberdeen SD (Move For Heart, American Heart Association)
Daryle and Lucy DeClercq, Aberdeen SD (memorial)

Miscellaneous Donations
Northern State University (complimentary passes to sporting events)
Aberdeen Lions Club (birthday balloons and gift certificates)
Aberdeen Exchange Club (tickets to “Tribute to the Beatles”)
Aberdeen Lioness Club (Ice Cream Social for students in June and July)
Coca-Cola Company (PowerAde and Bottled Water for Track, Forensics, Goalball, & Swim Meets)

Dakota Heritage Barbershop (tickets)
AirDrives, San Diego CA (5 AirDrives Headphones)

Move for Heart Donation
Jodi Carlsgaard, Physical Education Instructor accepting a check from Michelle, Support Manager, on behalf of Wal-mart.

DONATION
Dacotah Bank donated to the Aberdeen Lions Club three large screen computer monitors. The Aberdeen Lions Club then donated the monitors to the School for use by the students and staff in support.

Barrier Awareness Day
With the SDSBVI students attending a Special Olympics Meet or the NCASB Meet, the School was once again able to host the annual “Barrier Awareness Day” in collaboration with the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. The event hosted 220 5th grade students from local schools, each getting a first-hand experience of living with a disability and the barriers they might encounter, whether physical or attitudinal.
All Aboard for a Memorable Ride!

By Richard Blondo (kid at heart) and Stacy Richardson

The staff and students who attended the Summer Program were grateful to have received tickets for the special train ride provided by The Burlington Northern Santa Fae Railway (BNSF) in June. Everyone met at the Boys & Girls Club and were bussed to the train depot. We waited with great anticipation at the steps that led to the passenger cars and boarded quickly when the Conductor called “All Aboard”. There was a big footstool to help us get to the first step and handrails to use once we were on the train. We walked through several passenger cars and went up and down from car to car to get to the dome car. When we reached the dome car, we found seats and settled in for the day’s journey. The car had windows instead of a covered roof, which allowed us a wonderful view of the scenery. There were two seats on each side, with an aisle in between.

Before long, the conductor walked through and checked our tickets. It was very exciting to hear the sounds outside as we waited to depart.

As the train began to pull away from the station, the horn blew loudly and the wheels squeaked as the train began to pick up speed. As we traveled the countryside, we could feel and hear the train wheels rolling rhythmically along the track, almost as if it were speaking to us, telling us tales from the past. We heard the horn blow loudly at each road crossing and the train rocked back and forth as we rode. Soon the conductor’s helpers came through and gave us drinks and hot dogs for lunch. Later, we were given coloring books and hats, even the grown ups! After the train had travelled an hour west, it stopped and the engine on the other end of the train took over and brought us back to Aberdeen. We had another snack on the way back. It was a wonderful day and the first time many of us had ridden on a train.

Thank you BNSF, on behalf of everyone here at the School that was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to take part in this memorable event. It is amazing to think that people in this country have been traveling by train for more than 100 years!
Update from Statewide Study
Continued from page 1

Goal 5: We are expanding our options for students to include short term stays on campus to work on the Expanded Core Curriculum (skills of blindness)

Goal 6: We are making some adjustments in our assessments program to focus our attention on vision-related skills and impact of vision loss on academic performance.

Goal 7: We are very fortunate to have Dan Boyd and Connie Sullivan at the State Library working to ensure students have accessible materials in a timely manner.

Goal 8: We are working to ensure children receive instruction in all identified areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum will be a priority. We will use the summer program and short-term interventions to address these needs.

Goal 9: We will be participating in a nation-wide outcome study, continuing to work on employment opportunities, and supporting the summer program at the Rehabilitation Center in Sioux Falls.

Goal 10: We will continue to provide or support professional development opportunities and share resources with teachers and families statewide.

Transition Week 2008
By Dawn Backer

Ten students attended the Transition Week held at the SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (SDRC). The students enjoyed a week of activities around Sioux Falls designed to foster their career goals and introduce skills for independent living. The students had a chance to experience classes at SDRC while learning new skills, such as money management and check writing, cooking, home maintenance, and crafts. They rode the city bus to the center from the dorm to develop orientation & mobility skills. The SDRC vocation team emphasized career activities, including job searches, interviewing techniques, appropriate job etiquette, and learning about the education and experience needed for different careers. Students toured, EROS, McKennan, and KELO Radio. Several guest speakers talked about their experiences. The students played beepball and enjoyed a picnic with the SBVI Board members and spent time getting to know each other. Time was also spent shopping at the mall, eating pizza and watching movies.
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 including:

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

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.

Daytime Camping

By The Wise Old Ones

The picnic wagon we filled up
Held many things, including cups.
Grilling hot dogs on a fork
Be careful not to get a dork!
Melting marshmallows on the grate,
Get them off before it's too late!
Messy sm'ores are fun to eat,
Especially while we're in the heat.
Ring toss, croquet, horseshoes, too,
Our picnic games were fun to do.
We made new friends while in the park,
We even heard the Melgaard lark.
While playing on the slides and swings,
We watched the man mow weeds and things.
Daytime camping’s lots of fun!
It can be done by anyone!
Independent Living Skills

Assistive Technology/Visual Efficiency Skills
The best thing all summer was getting to meet new friends!
HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR PIONEER?
The Pioneer is available in three formats: 1) large print, 2) Braille, or 3) e-mail. We ask you to return this form if you want to change your Pioneer format or if you have an address change.

NAME: ______________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP: ______________________________________________________________

E-MAIL: ______________________________________________________________

CHANGES: ___________________________________________________________________

Return to: Dawn LaMee, Pioneer Editor
South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401-7699 Phone # (605) 626-2580 or Toll Free 1-888-275-3814 Fax # (605) 626-2607 or E-mail: lameed@sdsbvi.northern.edu

*************************************************************************

The Pioneer: Volume 45, No 2 - Spring/Summer 2008 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.

Pass it on after you are done reading it!