New Logo!
The SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired has adopted a new distinctive logo. As you can see, it is similar to logo used by our School but has the addition of an umbrella, providing extra protection for the figures below. The Foundation’s mission is to expand the educational, social and recreational opportunities for children and youth with vision loss. The Foundation funds mini-grants to enhance the educational program, provides specialized equipment, and supports student activities in the community and participation in special events.

Mark your Calendar for 2010 Reunion!!!
The next All-School Reunion has been scheduled for August 6-8, 2010. We will be celebrating 110 years of educating students with visual impairments. The Planning Committee is just in the initial stages of putting together a schedule but we are looking a possibly making a “road trip” to the old School for the Blind in Gary, SD as it has recently been renovated back to its historic beauty (article on page 14). Many other activities will also be planned so the Committee needs your help to make sure we offer fun activities everyone will enjoy! But, always keep in mind, it will only be as fun as the people who attend make it so we need everyone to plan to be in Aberdeen next August!

The Ramkota Hotel Best Western has once again been chosen as the host site where a block of rooms has been reserved for the reunion. Call 605-229-4040 or 1-800-528-1234 to make your room reservations at the Ramkota, refer to the “SDSBVI Reunion”.

Alumni/Former Staff Directory: We will be once again update our directory so we hope all former students and staff will share information about their lives since leaving the School. Our goal is to obtain current information for everyone who attended the School (even if it was for only a very short time). Please send any addresses you may have of former students and staff, and pass this information to anyone you know who might not have received it.

Send any ideas or information to Dawn LaMee at the SDSBVI, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401, call her at 1-888-275-3814 or 605-626-2580, or email at lameed@sdsbvi.northern.edu.
The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1978 with the purpose of expanding social, recreational, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Foundation has an existing endowment that generates income to allow contributions to be given year after year.

You can support students who are blind or visually impaired by making an immediate impact on the opportunities and enrichment activities in one of the following ways.

- **Memberships**: Become a member!
  - **Sustaining Member**: (voting) Annual contribution of $50 or more
  - **Lifetime Member**: (voting) Contributions of $500 or more in a one-time payment or the installment option
  - **Patron**: (non-voting) Donation of any amount is appreciated.
  - **Bequest/Memorial**: Remember your loved ones or friends with a memorial.
  - **Devising 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.

### New Foundation Members

**New Foundation Members**
(4/1/09-8/1/09)

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

- **Sustaining and Patrons**
  - Vicki Altman, Mobridge SD
  - Aberdeen Lions Club, Aberdeen SD
  - Corey and Sandy Vosika, Aberdeen SD
  - BAE Systems, Aberdeen SD

- **Memorial for Francis Guhin**
  - Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

- **Memorial for Rita Mae Tripathy**
  - Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD

- **Memorial for Margaret Traxinger**
  - Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

- **Memorial for Lloyd Sanderson**
  - Lonald L. and Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

- **Memorial for James Hauck**
  - Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD

- **Memorial for Eric Bratsveen**
  - Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD

Jeremy Neuheisel testing out the NuStep

The Foundation with help from the SDSBVI Arts & Special Activities Committee and the Aberdeen Lioness Club purchased a NuStep T5 Recumbent Cross Trainer to be used by both students and staff.
“Plunging Again”
Conditions were “balmy” when Jane Ann Leonard (a duck hunter), Mr. Krogstrand (rooster), Derek Turner (a ghoul), and Jodi Carlsgaard (itchy underwear) took the plunge into Lake Minniecho at Wylie Park to support the Aberdeen Area Special Olympics. Students and staff took on the challenge and everyone “pooled” their money to raise over $1200. The team ended up being named the “school to raise the most money” so in return students and staff received a pizza party.

Our Brick
Student and Staff, through the Arts & Special Activities Committee, purchased a brick to help raise funds to build the new Storybook Land Visitor Center at Wylie Park. The Park provides our students and staff a great deal of enjoyment both during the school year and in the summer months. Previously the school purchased a statue of a witch for the theme park.

Honor Flight South Dakota
Staff joined with other state employees in fund-raising efforts for the Honor Flight South Dakota, which is a program that sends World War II veterans and their escorts on an trip from South Dakota to Washington DC to see the WWII Memorial. Collectively, state employees raised enough to cover the travel expenses for 80 veterans!

Thinker/Inventor/O&M Specialist
Our School is lucky to have Martin Pfotenhauer as our Orientation & Mobility Specialist with a long term interest in redirecting the technology and materials used in sports equipment for long canes used by people who are blind and visually impaired. Previously Martin developed prototype canes made out of various new materials as they have become available such as Graphite Composite, Titanium Alloy, Kevlar®, and then Scandium Alloy.

The Scandium Alloy golf shaft was developed by the Element 21 Company in Canada. Scandium is element 21 on the Periodic Table of elements and is imported from Russia. The Russians have used Scandium Alloys for the nose cones of submarine missiles to break through the polar ice caps, their MIG 29 jet fighters, and Russian parts for the International Space Station. He proposed to call the cane the New Orientation Venture Aid - NOVA + Cane = NOVCANE (Let the cane take the pain). He is now making inquiries about Nano-Particle materials to develop yet another prototype cane using this newest material.

A Long Night of Fun!
Students and staff members stayed up all night (or at least most of the 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 gags fueled the fun for this “end of the year” celebration.
Aberdeen Area Family Support Group and SD NAPVI
The group met several times during the last school year. One of the first meetings involved the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Thanks to those parents who attended and volunteered at this fun event. In November, Dawn Brush, a former SDSBVI student and employee shared experiences of her life growing up blind. In January, parents had the opportunity to experience hands-on learning with assistive technology devices provided by DakotaLink. Jane Mundschenk, Orientation & Mobility Specialist, held a “mobility lesson” with parents in February where they experienced cane skills first-hand. In July, Lela Holcomb a teacher at the SDSBVI shared about Transition. In August, the group met at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center for an evening of swimming, pizza, and connecting with others.

Sioux Falls Area Family Support Group
In April, families met to share a meal, network with others, and listen to Keith Bundy, the Director of Student Development and ADA Academic Coordinator at Dakota State University, share his story about his childhood and how important independence is in growing up as a person who is blind. Parents enjoyed Keith’s presentation and learning so much from him! For more information about the group contact either Indira Dillon at 605-995-8191, by email at indira.dillon@sdsbvi.northern.edu or Julie Van Dover at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814 or by email at vandovej@sdsbvi.northern.edu.

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, PO Box 732, Aberdeen SD 57402, 605-225-3432, rkmeister@nvc.net
Krystal Stuwe, 202 4th Ave., Ipswich SD 57451, 605-426-6224, lkstuwe@valleytel.net
Secretary: Joleen Schaffer, 1803 S Lincoln St., Aberdeen SD 57401, 605-380-3332, yortwork@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Rhiannon Zahm, 36755 162nd St., Cresbard SD 57435, 605-380-9375, lkstuwe@gmail.com

SD NAPVI, a newly formed Chapter of NAPVI, was organized with funds from a mini-grant from the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 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. For more information about joining a group, contact an officer.

Dinner in the Dark
An adventure to experience first hand the world in which the blind and visually impaired live was held in June in the SDSBVI gym. Guests under blindfold, enjoyed a three-course meal, prepared and served by SD NAPVI and Aberdeen Lioness Club members. A silent auction was held and wonderful door prizes were given away. All proceeds went to support the South Dakota Chapter of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (SD NAPVI).

The group is already starting to plan the next Dinner in the Dark to be held next spring.
Congratulations Graduates!
We were proud to present diplomas to two of our students during ceremonies
held on May 21. Commencement speaker Art Russo, EC Rhodes Group,
shared his graduation thoughts on “Attitudes in Life” and Dr. Thomas Hawley,
Provost/Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Northern State University
represented the Board of Regents to confer diplomas to our graduates.

Our graduates shared the following thoughts about the SDSBVI.

Randy Baseler: Doland SD
Heroes: Grandpa
Most Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Holcomb
Other Thoughts: I loved being at the school!
Favorite Foods: Cheeseburger and fries
Best Memories of School: Going out in the community
Plans for the Future: Attend ATCO in Watertown
Most Valuable Experience in School: Vocational Training
Favorite Hobbies: Listening to music and books on tape and watching movies

Derek Turner: Custer SD
Heroes: Mrs. Fischbach
Favorite Foods: Chicken Kieos
Most Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Fischbach
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends & listening to music
Extracurricular Activities: Teen Court, Lions Club, Goalball, Track, and Forensics
Plans for the Future: Moving into an apartment in Sioux Falls and getting a job
Most Valuable Experience in School: Learning Braille, O&M, and learning to cooking
Most Embarrassing Moment: Almost being de-pants by Coach while running in PE class
Something You’re Proud of: Being alive and graduating from school
Best Memories of School: Being with friends, outings, Teen Court, Aberdeen Lions Club & graduating

Wade Turner: Custer SD
Something You’re Proud of: Being blind!
Best Memories of School: Going to Track, Goalball, and Forensics meets
Extracurricular Activities: Track, Goalball, Forensics, and Mayor’s Committee
Most Valuable Experience in School: Playing on the Goalball team
Most Memorable Teachers: Mrs. Fischbach and Coach Bob
Favorite Foods: Pizza, hamburgers, Hamburger Helper, Stuff (my own recipe)
Plans for the Future: I plan to live in Sioux Falls and get a job, and start a family with my girlfriend
Most Funny Experience in School: When my brother Derek thought that Tina Turner was related to us.
Heroes: Girlfriend Samantha, mom, dad, brother, Coach, Mrs. Fischbach, & everyone at school!
Hobbies: Listening to music, surfing the internet, talking to my girlfriend, playing video games, watching TV and movies, and
hanging out with friends.
Other Thoughts: I really enjoyed my time at school. I'll miss playing Goalball, Track, Forensics, most of all, I'll miss everyone at school! And I
know that next year won't be the same without me!
Barrier Awareness Day was fun as well! I really enjoyed meeting kids from the various schools near
Aberdeen. I'm here for you if you need me! I hope everyone has fun at school next year, and don't
forget the memories!

Music Group
Superintendent
Marjorie Kaiser

“Experience Life Together
+ Pursue Separate Dreams
= Memories Forever”

Purple, Blue, and Gold
Class Color

Yellow Roses, Blue Carnations
and Purple Daisies
Class Flower
Change is a Coming!

Cory Lane: Cathy Walker, Dormitory Supervisor, saying Thank You to Cory Lane after spending two years as a Residential Child Care Staff member. He is leaving us to “head on to school” at Dakota State University in Madison, SD seeking his fame and fortune in the world of computers and technology.

Kathy Newman: We wish nothing but the best to Kathy Newman, who after two years with us as a classroom teacher is seeking new and different challenges.

Rene Graf: a long time sub teacher, teacher aide, volunteer, and a community advocate for the School will be spending more time in travel, more time with the grandkids, and enjoying all aspects of life.

Sue Braun: a temporary long term sub for the past two years and prior to that as a sub in a variety of areas will be taking on a new opportunities this fall.

Dakota AER Conference

By Dr. Marjorie Kaiser

Author, singer, song-writer, correspondent, and actor, Tom Sullivan has led an interesting and fulfilling life. Blind from birth, Tom shared his personal story “Adventure in Darkness” with parents, students, teachers, and the general public at the Dakota Chapter AER convention. Tom’s presentation was co-sponsored by Allergen and ND Vision Services/School for the Blind Foundation.

Four high school students and SD AER members made the trip to Fargo to meet Tom Sullivan and hear his presentation. The agenda also included information from Dr. Johnson on advances in treating retinal problems, and sessions on Braille, Orientation & Mobility, technology, and employment. There were also activities for the students and an opportunity to hear from parents.

Dawn Brush, Alumni and former staff member from Aberdeen, was named the Dakota Chapter AER Worker of the Year for her many contributions to helping people understand blindness and advance the work of professionals.
Administration Receives Recognition

Mark Krogstrand, Principal, was recently chosen as one of five nominees for the South Dakota Association of Elementary School Principals “National Distinguished Principal” Award during their State Conference in Spearfish, SD. The award is an acknowledgement by fellow Administrators for a job “well done.” Jackie McNamara from Sioux Falls, SD was selected as the winner. Mr. Krogstrand has also spent the last three years serving as the “Assistant Games Director” during the SD All-Star Games sponsored by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association. He is responsible for arranging the practice schedules, housing, meals, off-campus activities, and transportation.

Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent, was recently recognized in the article “APH Trustee is Honored with TWO Major Awards” in the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) “June APH News” which is a monthly link to the latest information on the products, services, and training opportunities at the APH. Marjorie was recognized for receiving both the Lions International Presidential Medal and the Gus Zachte Memorial Award of the South Dakota Association of the Blind. She was congratulated for her amazing accomplishments and dedication to improving opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired.

“Friend of SDSBVI” Award

Over the years the School has recognized employers, volunteers, parents, legislators, and organizations as “Friends of SDSBVI”. The School recently selected Lois Beckner for this Award. Lois is always finding ways to involve our students in recreational and leisure activities. Pottery, papermaking, dance, collage, painting, and clay are just some of the experiences provided through Aberdeen Parks, Recreation, and Forestry. Lois understands our students have hidden talents and her inclusive approach not only encourages our students to take part, but she plans activities around their interests.

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 the Quilts of Valor; 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;
- My Coke Rewards points;
- 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.
News

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

ceu hosted a social during the home forensics, goalball, and beep ball meet;
ceu attended and made bowls for “Empty Bowls Fundraiser Dinner”;
ceu enjoyed the “End of the Year” overnight celebration at Holiday Inn Express, and
ceu continue to collect expired hunting licenses for resale.

Students of the Quarters

Jada Madsen was honored as the “Student of the Quarter” for the 3rd Nine Weeks. Jada who just turned 3 years old was recognized for her efforts in gaining increased walking skills with or without her walker, improved communication skills, including some signing, eating skills, greater tactile awareness, showing bravery each, and every day in allowing so many staff and students be a part of her world with includes being both deaf and blind. Congratulations, Jada!

Shane Hoffman, our lone North Dakotan, was selected as our Student of the Quarter for the 4th Nine Weeks. Shane was recognized for his efforts in his greater independence in his eating skills, his work with increased independent wheelchair movement, ball activities, and his ready smile and greeting for all. Congratulations, Shane!

Dakota Heritage Barbershop Concert
In April, the students and staff enjoyed a concert featuring several barbershop quartets and group musical numbers held on the campus of NSU.

Youth Leadership Forum
Analis Dannen was selected to attend the week long Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) on the Northern State University campus. The Forum enables young adults who have a disability to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role model. The Forum is sponsored by the Transition Services Liaison Project.

Circus! Circus! Circus!
Young, old, and in-between, the circus always brings out a bit of the kid in us. Once again, courtesy of the Aberdeen local community and our special friends at the Yelduz Shrine Temple, our students and staff members had the opportunity to enjoy the new acts, the old favorites, the animals, and of course, the clowns!

Sharing Our Playground
Our friends from the Aberdeen Family Y Camp “DREAMmakers” under the direction of Rose Kraft spent time on our campus this summer utilizing our accessible playground.

Wade and Derek Turner “rocking out” during the “Irish Celebration” at the Red Rooster Coffee House
Consultants’ Corner

**YouTube and Facebook**
APH has recently created YouTube and Facebook sites. On YouTube, you can see a short version of the new video “Gateway to Knowledge,” which gives a general overview of APH. Videos that show Braille production and Talking Books production are also posted there. Visit these sites, add your comments, become a subscriber, and find out what’s going on at APH. http://youtube.com/user/aphftb or http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Printing-House-for-the-Blind/18541793028

**APH Educational Materials—** http://www.aph.org

**Setting the Stage for Tactile Understanding:** “Making Tactile Pictures Make Sense” is a set of tangible items and activities that assists young tactile readers in making the transition from the exploration of real objects to the interpretation of two-dimensional representations, both in thermoformed formats and simple raised-line illustrations. A three-dimensional house model aids with advanced understanding of scale and perspective.

**Recommended Ages: 5 years and older**

**Tangle Toy®** — With its infinite knot shapes and variety of colors and textures, the Tangle Toy® can be used in various forms to encourage a child to explore, move, and play. It includes segments that feature bright colors, each color with its own unique texture. The curved segments can be combined to create a high-contrast toy that can be twisted into an infinite number of shapes. This provides a visually and tactually interesting object to help catch a child’s attention. Because each colored segment has its own texture, activities that are focused on using specific colors are easily adapted for the child who is blind. The activities and games in the Tangle Book help sighted and visually impaired peers refine motor skills, color discrimination, and tactile discrimination. These products are available from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) or can be borrowed from an Outreach Vision Consultant.

**Interactive Developmental Milestones Checklist**
The Interactive Developmental Milestones Checklist is a free online resource for families on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, available in both English and Spanish. Selecting the age of your child (3 months to 5 years) and then filling out this checklist is a great way to record the milestones your child is reaching or as a way to share your child’s development with the doctor or nurse at the next checkup. Find lots of other information and free resources also that will help you “Learn the Signs and Act Early” on childhood developmental disorders. Visit and explore at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ActEarly/interactive/index.html

**Classroom Adaptations: Techniques**

- Know the functional visual needs of each student.
- Plan the daily program with alternating periods of near vision tasks and less demanding visual tasks.
- Be aware that vision may fluctuate due to:
  - visual condition or disease
  - fatigue
  - lighting conditions
  - amount of contrast available
  - environmental conditions
  - medications
- Make all board writing large, clear, and place it in the line of vision of the student and verbalize all board writing.
- Minimize copying. The student should use his/her vision to work the problem, learn the concepts, and read the material – not copy great amounts of material.
- Minimize clutter in pictures and materials. For more detailed pictures, verbally describe the details, as many students with visual impairments miss details that others see.
- Provide lists of assignments/notes in advance and provide copies of overheads in advance.
- Be aware of color and contrast in materials – provide good contrast.
- Use concrete rather than abstract objects as much as possible.
National Award
Julie Van Dover, Outreach Vision Consultant, has been selected as an American Printing House for the Blind Scholar for 2009. Julie will receive the award at the annual meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind in October. Julie has been a faculty member at the School for 13 years and has a teaching degree in special education, an endorsement in visual impairments, and national certification as a Low Vision Therapist. Julie serves the eastern part of the State by consulting with classroom teachers, loaning educational materials, and providing local training for families and teachers.

Years of Service
The following employees were honored for continuous years of service. Back row: Diane Agnitsch, Instructional Assistant, 20 years; Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Low Vision Specialist, 5 years; and Rob Faltemier, Technology Specialist, 5 years. Front row: Deb Mitchell, Human Resources Director, 30 years; and Angie Usselman, Cook, 20 years. Not pictured: Doug Quiram, Senior Building Maintenance Worker, 5 years; Amy Scepaniak, Outreach Vision Consultant, 15 years; and Riki Nitz, Outreach Vision Consultant, 20 years.

Retiring!
Ray Mehlhoff was presented a clock by Business Manager R.Lee Ginsbach upon his retirement after spending 11 years as the Food Service Supervisor at the School. Mehlhoff managed the food service program with high standards for quality and nutrition while meeting the unique nutritional needs of the students.

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 eight individuals were nominated:
Maintenance: John Rieck
Office: Susan Snaza
Kitchen: Angie Usselman and Ray Mehlhoff
Residential: Lynette Gisi, Janet Moser, and Kathy Prouse

This year’s winner is Cathy DeCurtins, a School Nurse for the last eight years, was recognized for her concern for the well-being and happiness of the children, the extra effort she puts in to help all the students, and her friendliness towards students and staff.
Sports and Activities

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!!! A special thanks to Coach Fischbach and all of our helpers throughout the season.

Results from Regional Aquatics Meet: Jacob Bieber: 2nd 15 M Flotation, 2nd 15 M Flotation; Jeremy Bruns: 1st 25 M Flotation, 2nd 15 M Flotation; Mariah DeMarrias: 1st 50 M Backstroke, 2nd 50 M Freestyle; Emery Long Crow: 1st 100 M Freestyle, 1st 100 M Backstroke; Jeremy Neuheisel: 1st 15 M Flotation, 2nd 25 M Flotation; Riley Schaffer: 2nd 5 M Flotation, 2nd 25 M Flotation


Barrier Awareness Day
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 265 5th grade students and their teachers. Each student had a first-hand experience of living with a disability and the barriers they might encounter, whether physical or attitudinal.
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: Graduation Recognition, Classroom Participation Certificate (Workshop), Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 81.51), and Residential Student of the Year; Jacob Bieber: Classroom Participation Certificate (Improvement in Self-Care Skills), Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 54.23), and Special Olympics Participation Awards; Jeremy Bruns: Classroom Participation Certificate (Improvement in Math Skills), Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 61.90), and Special Olympics Participation Awards; Analis Dannen: Region IV Music Contest-Superior Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble & Piano), Letters (Swimming-3rd year, Forensics, Track & Field-4th year, Music, Goalball), Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 114.46), Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, and Project Skills Off-Campus Job; Mariah DeMarrias: Employment Certificate for working at the ATC (1st year), 1st Quarter Student of the Month, Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 66.62), and Special Olympics Participation Awards; Caramia Estes: Classroom Participation Certificate, Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 40.36); Hailey Hale: Classroom Participation Certificate and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 96.87); Shane Hoffman: Classroom Participation Certificate (Great Strides in Self-Feeding) and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Overhand throwing and wheeling himself around in chair); Lacey Killingsworth: Letters (Track & Field-5th year, Special Olympics), Forensics Participation Certificate, Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 135.89); Emery Long Crow: Classroom Participation Certificate (Great Strides in Self-Feeding) and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 114.46), Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, and Project Skills Off-Campus Participation Awards, Project Skills Off-Campus Employment Certificate, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 135.89); Jada Madsen: Classroom Participation Certificate; 3rd Quarter Student of the Month, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 8.89); Jeremy Neuheisel: “Outstanding Citizenship” Award (given to a student who best represents the qualities of good citizenship), O&M Certificate of Achievement, Choir Participation Certificate, Participation Certificates (Special Olympics, Goalball, Forensics), 2nd Quarter Student of the Month, Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 75.83), and Participation Certificate for Move for Heart; Johnny Sauer: Classroom Participation Award, Special Olympics Participation Awards (Bowling, Track & Field), Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 61.82), and Goalball Participation Certificate; Riley Schaffer: Classroom Participation Certificate (Using ASL to Communicate), Special Olympics Participation Awards, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 51.15); Grady Schlosser: Classroom Participation Certificate and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 48.43); Quinn Sterzinger: Classroom Participation Certificate and Participation Certificate for Move for Heart; Derek Turner: Graduation Recognition, Sigma Alpha Iota Outstanding Music Student Award, Region IV Music Contest-Superior Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Letters (Track & Field, Forensics, Music-6th year, Goalball-Student Manager), Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, Project Skills Off-Campus Job, Certificate of Recognition for Exemplary Effort and Achievement, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 137.61); Wade Turner: Graduation Recognition, Apartment “Student of the Year” Award, Sigma Alpha Iota Outstanding Music Student Award, Lettering (Music-6th year, Forensics, Track & Field, Music, Goalball), Region IV Music Contest-Superior Rating Certificate (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Participation Certificate for Move for Heart, Project Skills Off-Campus Job, Certificate of Recognition for Exemplary Effort and Achievement, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 140.76); KrisLynn Zahm: Classroom Participation Certificate and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 30.28); Michael Wingen: Classroom Participation Certificate, Effort & Progress in Braille Certificate, and Walk, Run, Having Fun Award (Total Miles - 53.75).
Donations
The School would like to thank the following individuals or businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
Field Trip Students, Kulm ND

Miscellaneous Donations
Aberdeen Lions Club (birthday balloons and gift certificates)
Francis Guhin Family, Aberdeen SD (talking watch)
Jane Mundschenk, Aberdeen SD (Professional Books)
Bob Kramer, SD Cares (2 talking watches)
Sandra Payne, Aberdeen SD (videos: Disney and westerns)
Aberdeen Exchange Club (tickets for “George the Juggle”)
Dakota Heritage Chorus, Aberdeen SD (tickets)
Northern State University (complimentary passes to events)
Parks & Rec Department, Aberdeen SD (Aquatics Center season passes)
Coca-Cola Company (PowerAde and Bottled Water for Forensics, Goalball, & Beep Ball Meets)

Books Have New Home
The School has a wonderful new collection of audio books, thanks to a donation of 762 books from Charles and Diane Flohr from Sioux Falls, SD. Anyone interested in checking out a book, they are available through inter-library loan from any Library or by contacting our Librarian Pat Geditz.

Memorial for Dorothy Nultemeier
Don & Eleanor Cook, Warrenton VA
Sheryl Froiland, Blaine MN
Dorothy Small, Watertown SD

Memorial for Harold Warren Sr.
Paul & Juanita Bell, Aiken SC
Dr. Joan Chase, Dunedin FL
Alice Warren, Orlando FL

Our team posing with Minnesota Viking and Aberdeen native Taylor Mehlhoff during the Polar Plunge this spring

Senior Wade Turner receiving a Thank You from Mayor Mike Levsen for serving two years on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities
**Exciting News from Gary**

We are excited to share with everyone the buildings at the former School for the Blind in Gary, SD are being renovated into lodging, office space, and possibly other uses. The campus now called Buffalo Ridge Resort occupies approximately 36 acres with four main buildings and several smaller structures. After 30-plus years of neglect, the buildings are receiving an exciting facelift. The school, deserted since the early 1970s, was purchased recently by Joe Kolbach, CEO of Dakota Wind and he has set about renovating the campus. It is a project that is being completed in phases, with the first stage being the renovation of the two dormitory buildings, built in 1910 and 1925, and Lake Elsie, a lake on the campus that was drained and filled after a drowning in 1962. The auditorium will also be made into a banquet hall or meeting rooms. The renovations are being completed with the help of the Rural Learning Center, a Miner County-based organization that works for the revitalization of rural communities. After fully renovated, the property will still retains much of its historical appeal, including a unique system of underground tunnels, originally used to allow the blind students to travel from one building to another in inclement weather. The campus also includes the Talking Waters Campground located just north of the Buffalo Ridge Resort, next to Lake Elsie and it features campsites with modern facilities and electrical outlets, or walk-in tent sites.

The students who attended the School were a big part of the community of Gary so Mr. Kolbach is talking about putting together a museum as a tribute to the South Dakota School for the Blind and the important role it played in the community. Michael Hope from Madison is also filming a documentary on the project and has interviewed several former students and staff.

If anyone is interested in sharing information about your time at the School contact: Joe Kolbach at Dakota Wind, LLC, PO Box 9, Gary, SD 57237; 1-888-200-6074 or (605) 272-2021; email: Joe.Kolbach@dakwind.com; website: http://www.experiencegarysd.com/buffalo-ridge-resort.cfm
National Volunteers Week
During this week members of Lorri Peterson’s Elementary classroom took time out to say Thank You to Foster Grandma Jane Shaner for all the work she has done for the School. Grandma Jane has been a Foster Grandparent at the School for 12 years.

Another Day, Another Tour!
As the school year “winds down” we enjoy spending time sharing information about our school with school groups and others. Dawn LaMee and other staff are busy, busy, busy making the tours exciting and educational with walks around the building, activities under blindfold and vision simulators, and sharing about the challenges and rewards our students realize every day.

Visitor from “Down Under”
Counselor Janel Ludwig and her students welcomed to their class Dominic Rossetto from in Launceston Tasmania (Australia) to share about his country. Dominic, a friend of Janel’s daughter Amanda, also attends South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD where he plays tennis. Dominic shared with the students information about the weather, food, education, and customs in his country. The students asked him a variety of questions including a few about the “Tasmanian Devil”.

Student Project
Students Wade Turner and Analis Dannen under the guidance of Orientation and Mobility Specialist Martin Pfotenhauer took on a community service project this spring when they put Braille labels on the door signs at both Presentation College and Presentation Convent.
Transition Week 2009  By Dawn Backer

Transition Week was held once again at the South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (SDRC) in Sioux Falls, SD July 26-30, 2009. The SDRC vocation team emphasized career activities, including job searches, interviewing techniques, job etiquette, self advocacy, self esteem, and thinking outside the box. Activities were designed to foster their career goals and introduce skills for independent living. The students had a chance to experience dorm life, riding city transit, and manage money. Students toured Raven Industries, and second year students were able to pick a job shadow experience and spent time in an area of career interest. Several guest speakers talked about their experiences and introduced the latest in technology and gadgets. The students played beep ball, shopped at the mall, and went fishing while getting to know each other and make friends.

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.
Expanded Core Curriculum Areas
Compensatory Academic/Assistive Technology/Visual Efficiency Skills/ Sensory Efficiency
Expanded Core Curriculum Areas

Recreation & Leisure/Social Interaction Skills
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The Pioneer: Volume 46, No 2 - Spring/Summer 2009 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.