SPECIAL POINTS OF interest:

- Learning Through Senses
- “Growing a Vision” Family Weekend
- Staff Training
- Year End Celebration!
- Barrier Awareness Day
- “Years of Service” Award
- “Spring is Plunging Time!”
- Special Olympics
- Dakotas Chapter AER Conference

Baby Ducks
A mama duck hatched out 11 baby ducklings in our Fragrance Garden this spring giving both the students and staff a wonderful opportunity to see nature “close up.”

Memorial Maple Tree
This tree as planted on campus in honor of Outreach Vision Consultant Riki Nitz who passed away last year. Riki was a true conservationist and loved to be outdoors.
The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1978 with the purpose of expanding social, recreational, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Foundation has an existing endowment that generates income to allow contributions to be given year after year.

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

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

For more information contact: South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401; toll free at 1-888-275-3814 or 605-626-2580.

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

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

**Sustaining and Patrons**
- Super 8 Motels of Aberdeen, SD
- Mark and Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen SD
- Selby Lions Club, Selby SD
- Parkston Lions Club, Parkston SD

**Memorial for Leo Kattke**
- Dawn Brush, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Jane Shaner**
- Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Tim Malsom**
- Dawn LaMee, Aberdeen SD
- Charles and Ginny Clark, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Don Gustafson**
- Jane Mundschenk, Aberdeen SD

**Memorial for Eileen Anderson**
- Lonald and Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

**Memorial for Leonard Lippert**
- Lonald and Marva Gellhaus, Groton SD

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**Thank You Note**
Dear Foundation Members: Thank you so much for your financial support for our Family Weekend. We could not have done the weekend without your support! Thanks to you all! Julie, Amy, Indi SDSBVI Outreach Vision Consultants

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**My Second Book of Symbols** is available for purchase. The book is designed to work with students who have a Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). For anyone interested in obtaining a copy, contact Dr. Marva Gellhaus at the SDSBVI or by email at: marva.gellhaus@sdsbvi.northern.edu.
It All Started With Worms

By Jane Mundschenk

Early in the school year, the Biology textbook started talking about environments. One of the experiments was to create a land ecosystem with some soil, water, a couple earthworms, dead leaves, paper, etc. As an extension to the lab, it also suggested that there be a water environment as a comparison. Thus, it was off to the store where a bowl, a fish that became known as “Sparky”, and a water plant were purchased.

Over the course of the year, because I taught both Life Science and Biology, there were a number of other animals that joined our classroom. As the students studied the different phyla and classes in the Kingdom Animalia, additional animals joined us so their characteristics could be observed and felt up close. We had “Gary” the snail, “Crabby” and “Mr. Crabs” fiddler crabs, a couple other fish including “Batman”, frog eggs that developed into Leopard frogs, and chicken eggs. The students learned to take responsibility in caring for the animals, including who was going to feed them over the weekend, and providing the appropriate environments to meet specific needs. Some of the animals survived the school year and others did not. This also provided the opportunity to learn about the life cycle—birth/hatching, growth, adulthood, and death. With a new school year, there will be a new Biology class so we will see what might appear in the classroom next.

Smart Boards

The Curriculum Committee recently completed a number of local school visitations to observe the use of “smart board” technology in classrooms at various levels of instruction. As a result of their on-site observations and subsequent recommendations, we now have two such teaching tools installed in our classrooms for instructor and our students to use. The technology with the smart board allows the instructor to project on to the board from a computer to use websites and interactive activities to supplement and enhance the instruction and learning process. This technology gives resources to improve our teaching and learning!

Learning Through Senses

Lorri Peterson, Preschool and Elementary Instructor, enjoyed spending time each week in the School's therapeutic spa, one-on-one, helping her students learn through the use of their senses. The warmth of the water helps the students do other daily activities that would otherwise be difficult because of stiff muscles.
Aberdeen Area Family Group

The group for families in the Aberdeen and surrounding areas met last November with Kelli Meister sharing about their families experiences at the National Conference on Albinism. In December parents were able to learn more about how to make textured paper with a scrapbooking embosser called The Cuttlebug, even making and taking home a tactile greeting card. The group met in April and had the opportunity to share the best ideas/advice/toys or experiences they have with their child. Amy Scepaniak shared interesting ideas for making homemade toys. In August, the group met at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center for an evening of swimming, pizza, and visiting with others [Mother Nature shortened the fun with rain and lightning!]

“Growing a Vision” Family Weekend

It had been several years since the School had hosted a family weekend. With financial help from the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Outreach Consultants along with help from several other staff members put on a Family Weekend in July. The weekend was filled with informational seminars for parents and fun, games, and activities for the children.

Speakers included the following:
☞ Blossoming into the New Age of Technology – Mark Cook from DakotaLink
☞ Planting Seeds: Expanded Core Curriculum - Marje Kaiser
☞ Growing and Going: O&M - Ardell Fiedler and Jane Mundsenkenk
☞ Growing up with a Visual Impairment: Panel Discussion - Dawn Brush, Ardell Fiedler, and Virginia Miller
☞ Growing Independence: Independent Living Skills - Ken Dockter
☞ Fertilizing Your Knowledge: Website Resources - Marje Kaiser

Mark your calendars as the Outreach Staff are already starting to plan for next year’s Family Weekend on July 7-8, 2012.
Focus on Success IV
The Conference was held this spring in Pierre, SD and focused on a variety of issues related to the field of blindness. The featured speakers were Marcus Engel who inspired the audience to achieve success by making intelligent choices, Brooke Lusk who spoke on Navigating SSA Work Incentives and Employment, and Sister Bernie Wynne on The Wisdom of the Ages.

A number of presenters from our School shared information on topics including:

- Transition to Success - Susan Birrenkott (Ardell Fiedler)
- Orientation & Mobility Through a Lifetime - Jane Mundschenk (Bob Smith, Ardell Fiedler, Becky Barnes)
- The Places You Can Go – Braille and Beyond - Marje Kaiser (Connie Sullivan) with Diane Agnitsch being a member of the panel
- Resources for Professionals & Consumers - Marje Kaiser
- Enlightening Low Vision Ideas for a Better Environment - Amy Scepaniak and Marva Gellhaus (Dawn Backer)

Several other staff members including Janel Ludwig, Indira Dillon, and Julie Van Dover also attended the conference to network with other professional and to gain valuable information.

Staff Training

**Janel Ludwig**, Psychological Examiner and Evaluation Team Leader, was recently trained to administer the **Tactile Assessment of Performance (TAP)**. The TAP was developed by Dr. Joan Chase, a nationally known Psychologist whom specializes in working with blind children. The instrument is designed to assess the ability of a blind child to use his/her sense of touch for critical thinking.

**Jodi Carlsgaard**, Instructor, spent time over the last year involved in a Mentoring and Coaching Institute sponsored by the Department of Education. The training provided resources to learn how to assist other educators who may be new to teaching, a school, a curriculum, or a teaching area. Jodi will now be available to mentor new teachers and help problem solve in a variety of situations.

Jodi also started a Healthy Kidz Club with her elementary health class. The Club is based on the Health Edventure curriculum which helps students understand disease prevention and how to live a healthy lifestyle. The kids did a variety of activities during the year and ended with a project of collecting autographs from their “School Family”.

New Faces
In addition to our staff who work at the school all year long we welcomed several substitutes who provided invaluable assistance to the students and staff, over the summer. They included **Jami Portra** as a Speech and Language Therapist, **Amy Reyes** and **Gretchen Meyer** as Instructional Assistants in the elementary classroom, and **Kaylene Sauer** as an Instructional Assistant in the functional skills classroom. **Sue Spenst**, **Jayne Reuer**, **Breanna Binger**, **JoAnn Klein**, **Jordann McLain**, and **Penny & Susan Krogstrand** also spent the summer months helping out in the dormitories. **Chelsey Weigel**, who worked as a long-term sub during the school year, also joined us as an Instructional Assistant but now we wish Chelsey the best as she starts a new job with the Aberdeen School District.
Tasty Biology

By: Tylor Killspotted, Jeremy Neuheisel, and Kelly Jorgenson

DNA is a chemical in organisms that contains the instructions for life and looks like a twisted ladder. The DNA backbone or sides of the ladder are made of sugars and phosphate groups bonded to each other. The rungs of the ladder are made of nitrogen bases. Tylor used licorice for the backbone of his DNA model. He used different colored gum drops for the adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine. These are the nitrogenous bases found in DNA. Jeremy used fruit for his adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine. He also used licorice for the backbone of his model. Kelly used pipe cleaners to make her DNA model. We used red and white to represent the sugar-phosphate backbone of the DNA. We used green, orange, blue, and yellow for the guanine, adenine, thymine, and cytosine. The purple was for the hydrogen bonds between the bases.

These models made it easier for us to remember what the strands of DNA looked like. We were showing that you could make DNA models out of many things such as pipe cleaners, fruit, and candy. The best part of making the models was we could eat some of the materials. We also worked on translating DNA into RNA. For this we took DNA triplets, figured out the mRNA sequence, converted it to a tRNA sequence, and back to a particular amino acid. Through this process, we made and delivered ice cream sundaes to people in the school hopefully matching flavors and toppings they had ordered. We got to eat sundaes too! After completing these activities, Tylor said “I learned that DNA needs to become RNA for the cells to be copied and make proteins for the body.”

Year End Celebration!

Staff and students enjoyed an evening of go-kart riding at Wylie Park Thunder Road. There were only a few bumps and spin-outs, but many smiles and a lot of laughs.
"Friend of SDSBVI" Award

Over the years the School has recognized individuals and organizations that have supported its students in a variety of ways. The honorees receive a plaque to display and their name is added to the large plaque on display in the school lobby. The School recently selected the Roslyn Community Quilters as a “Friend of SDSBVI”. Thanks to the quilters, each of our students has received a quilt of their own, lovingly made, and distributed to bring warmth and comfort to our students. The School thanks the Quilters for sharing their talents and time with our students.

Welcome

We were happy to welcome a new “Grandma” from the Foster Grandparent Program, Shirley Nikodym. Before starting at our school as a grandparent, Shirley also volunteered here with the Royal Neighbors of America. Shelby Dinger, a Presentation College student, volunteered with us for 80 hours this spring as part of a class requirement.

Good-bye

We say good-bye to Barbara Walker who joined us this year from the Experience Works Program as she moves on to new opportunities.

Arts & Special Activities Committee

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

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

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

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

The Committee also sells School Mugs ($7), Centennial Plates ($8), School Bags ($2), Lanyards ($4), Drawstring Bags ($4) and Shirts (various sizes and styles).
School News
Thanks to the efforts of students they have:
 participated in the Dakota STEP Testing;
 attended the Aberdeen Abate/FM Crusaders MC Bike Show;
 attended the Brown County Speedway Car Show;
 enjoyed the Big Boy Toy Show;
 made bowls for “Empty Bowls Fundraiser Dinner”; and
 continue to collect expired hunting licenses for resale.

See What You Can Do!
Sue Birrenkott, Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Dawn LaMee, and students Raydon Johnson, Kendra Terkildsen and Emery Long Crow attended the kick-off event for a new marketing campaign to get the word out, not only about services provided by the Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI), but also about the capabilities of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. SBVI is an important partner of the school and helps students transition into the world of work or a post-secondary school.

Special Visitor
In May, we were pleased to host and share a tour of our school with Kathryn Johnson, SD Board of Regents Board Chairperson. She is from Hill City but was in Aberdeen for the Board meeting.

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.

Hosting a Game
The School was pleased to host a basketball game between teams from the Aberdeen Area Special Olympics/Aspire and the Fraternal Order of Police. It was a hard fought game between two talented teams where everyone was a winner.

“Catch the Wave”
Courtland Collins, Kelly Jorgenson, Tylor Killspotted, Jeremy Neuheisel, Mr. Bob McLaughlin, Mrs. Lela Holcomb and Ms. Sue Birrenkott attended “Catch the Wave” sponsored by the Transition Liaison Program held at Northern State University in April. It was designed to give students age 16 or older, who are interested in attending college, an opportunity to “learn more” about the possibilities and challenges.

Student Council Rummage Sale!
The 3rd annual Student Council rummage sale was our best ever! Over $797 was raised in sales, and thanks to the Royal Neighbors of America’s bake sale held in conjunction brought in another $180. With “matching” dollars, this event raised over $1,855; a huge financial and educational success. A very special thanks to Cathy Walker, Dormitories Supervisor, and the dormitory staff for all their hard work in getting the sale set up and helping the students learn about the business world.

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 over 300 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.
Aberdeen Fire Marshall Mike Thompson visited the campus to talk about fire safety and helped our students learn how to safely activate and use a fire extinguisher.

Happenings on Campus!

A fun afternoon making Cookies

The students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of rollerskating combined with music, food, and games at “SkatedAway”

Easter Time Fun!
No 2011 Graduates, But Congratulations!
While there was not a “formal” graduation this spring to acknowledge any graduating seniors, we are proud of the progress the students have made progress.

Year-End Student Awards
The School gave awards to the following students at the annual Awards Program:

- **Courtland Collins**: Letters (Music, Goalball, Swimming), Participation Certificates (Goalball, Forensics), Project Skills Employment Recognition, “III” Rating at Region IV Music Contest (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award (top runner with 188.46 miles);
- **Caramia Estes**: Preschool Graduation Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Malikhi Hansen**: Participation Certificates (Polar Plunge, Move for Heart, Goalball, Forensics, Special Olympics Bowling & Swimming), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Hailey Heintzman**: Little Miss Opposite Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart, Special Olympics Swimming), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Sybilla Heintzman**: Classroom Participation Award and Miss Smiley Face Award;
- **Shane Hoffman**: Participation Certificate (Classroom, Move for Heart, Special Olympics Bowling), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award (overhand throwing and wheeling himself around in gym);
- **Trashawn Howard**: Mr. Jabber Box Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Raydon Johnson**: Apartment Student of the Year, O&M Certificate of Achievement, Participation Certificate (Music, Goalball), Project Skills Employment Recognition, “III” Rating at Region IV Music Contest (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Kelly Jorgenson**: Residential Student of the Year, NSU Alpha Iota Outstanding Music Student Award, Letters (Music, Goalball, Swimming), Forensics, Track & Field, Participation Certificates (Goalball, Move for Heart), Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award, Project Skills Employment Recognition, “III” Rating at Region IV Music Contest (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), and “II” Rating at Region IV (Duet);
- **Tylor Killspotted**: Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Emery Long Crow**: Participation Certificate (Goalball, Forensics, Polar Plunge, Move for Heart, Special Olympic Bowling, Track and Field, Swimming), Letter (Special Olympics, Swimming), “III” Rating at Region IV Music Contest (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), and Participation Certificate (Classroom, Move for Heart);
- **Jeremy Neuheisel**: Letters (Music, Forensics, Goalball 2nd year), Participation Certificate (Goalball Student Manager, Move for Heart, Special Olympic Bowling, Track and Field), Project Skills Employment Recognition, Move for Heart Top Fundraiser with $616.00 raised), “III” Rating at Region IV Music Contest (Mixed Vocal Ensemble), Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Johnny Sauer**: Participation Certificate (Move for Heart) and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Ryker Meister**: “Coming out of his Shell” Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Kendra Terkildsen**: “Outstanding Citizenship” Award (given to a student who best represents the qualities of good citizenship), Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart, Special Olympics Bowling, Track and Field) and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Quinn Sterzinger**: Mr. Inquisitive Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **Vincent Stuwe**: Mr. Fix It Award, Participation Certificates (Classroom, Move for Heart), and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
- **KrisLynn Zahm**: Participation Certificate (Classroom, Move for Heart, Special Olympics Bowling, Track and Field, Swimming), Certificate for dismissal from Speech & Language Therapy, and Walk, Run, & Having Fun Award;
Donations
The School thanks the following individuals or businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations
Sigma Alpha IOTA NSU, Aberdeen SD (Music Program)
Sioux Falls Sioux Empire Lions Club, Sioux Falls SD
South Dakota Special Olympics (Polar Plunge)
Royal Neighbors of America
Student Loan Finance Corporation, Aberdeen SD

Miscellaneous Donations
Roncalli Nearly New Shop, Aberdeen SD (Donated Trophies)
Nancy Ganske (Receipts, Campbell’s labels, “Box Tops” coupons)
Aberdeen ABATE & FM Cruasaders Motorcycle Club (Tickets and T-shirts for Bike Show)
Harr Motors, Aberdeen SD (Tickets to Yelduz Shrine Circus)
Dacotah Bank, Aberdeen SD (Tickets to Aberdeen Men’s Chorus)
Northern State University (Complimentary Passes to Sporting Events)
Aberdeen Lions Club (Birthday Balloons and Gift Certificates)
Culver’s, Aberdeen SD (T-shirts)
SkateAway, Aberdeen SD (Great Hospitality during our field trip)
Casey Walker, Aberdeen SD (Hair Clipper Set)
Jeff Mitchell, Aberdeen SD (Tapes and CDs)
Salvation Army, Aberdeen SD (School Supplies)

Years of Service
Several employees at the School were recently honored for continuous years of service. They include, in the picture (Left to right) Front Row: Cathleen Walker, Houseparent Supervisor, 25 years; Julie VanDover, Outreach Vision Consultant, 15 years; Janel Ludwig, Student Counselor, 30 years; and Laurel McNickle, Instructional Assistant, 15 years. Back Row John Rieck, Senior Building Maintenance Worker, 30 years; Robert McLaughlin, Instructor, 40 years; Mark Krogstrand, Principal, 15 years; and Doris Anderson, Student Health Nurse, 15 years. Not Pictured: Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent, 25 years; Kay Clifford, Foodservice Supervisor, 10 years; Susan Snaza, Senior Secretary, 10 years; Lynette Gisi, Houseparent, 5 years; and Barbara Kelly, Houseparent, 5 years

Retiring!
Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Kaiser and Dorm Supervisor Cathleen Walker are pictured presenting a clock to Sharon Lee (center) upon her retirement after spending 17 years as a Residential Child Care staff member. Sharon will be remembered for being a very dedicated and caring person and her love for the students.
Career Service Employee of the Year

Our Career Service Employees are often the people behind the scenes, but what they do affects each of us every day. They keep the building and grounds clean and in good repair; they plan, cook and serve nutritious meals; they watch over our health; they answer phones and keep our school documents organized; they provide tours and organize evaluations and admissions; they find local employers for the students; they spend evenings and weekends teaching personal, social and recreational skills. Each spring the staff nominates a Career Service Employee who has gone beyond their job responsibilities to provide service to the school and students, provided exceptional support for their fellow workers, and has been a shining example to others. It is a special honor to be nominated by your peers for outstanding service.

This year eight individuals were nominated:
- **Residential**: Sharon Lee and Cathleen Walker
- **Maintenance**: Richard Blondo, John Rieck and Doug Quiram
- **Kitchen**: Angie Usselman
- **Outreach Services**: Sue Birrenkott
- **Office Personnel**: Susan Snaza and Lori Gellhaus

This year's winner is Sharon Lee, a Residential Staff member for the past seventeen years. She was recognized for extending herself wherever needed, being a dedicated and caring person, taking time to really listen to the students, working well with her co-workers, showing respect for everyone, and for demonstrating pride in the students and school. Congratulations Sharon!

Dakotas Chapter AER Conference

“Sharing a Vision” was 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. The conference featured speakers of interest to professionals in the field of vision with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) presented by Dr. Mary Morse and information on the Learning Media Assessment provided by Kathy Johnson from the American Printing House for the Blind. Our Instructor Jodi Carlsgaard presented on how to put together a successful adaptive physical education program. Jane Mundschenk and Tevan Fischbach were recognized for being members of AER for the last 25 years. Several staff including Amy Scepaniak, Julie VanDover, Martin Pfotenhauer, and Marva Gellhaus also attended the conference to network with other professionals and to gain valuable information.

“Riki Nitz” AER Worker of the Year Award

Martin Pfotenhauer, Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor® was honored during the conference as the “Riki Nitz” AER Worker of the Year. The award was originated in 1995 to recognize chapter members for their service to the blind and visually impaired, service to the profession, service to AER, and service to community. Martin was recognized for dedicating many years to help make life better for people with visual impairments, his innovativeness and willingness to share with fellow professionals, as a role model in the field, and for focusing on what is best for the student.

The name of the AER Worker of the Year award was recently changed to honor and remember Riki Nitz, a longtime member of the organization who passed away last year. Riki was very active in the organization for over 16 years and served in many Board positions including President.
“Spring is Plunging Time”

Conditions were “cold, rainy and windy” when Emery Long Crow, Principal Mark Krogstrand, and Malikhi Hansen took the plunge into Lake Minniecho at Wylie Park to help support the Aberdeen Area Special Olympics. Students and staff took on the challenge and raised $1,003. Jane Mundschenk, Tevan Fischbach, and Jeremy Neuheisel were “Too Chicken to Plunge”, but raised at least $100 each. Because of a friendship with Malikhi’s father Aberdeen Police Chief Don Lanpher joined our team to jump with him.

Special Olympics Team

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 Tevan Fischbach and all of our helpers throughout the season.

Due to a winter storm and a scheduling conflicts our Special Olympians were unable participate in the NE Area Aquatics and the Track & Field Meets, but did attend the Summer Games with the following results: Emery Long Crow: 5th Running Long Jump, 3rd Shot Put, 5th 400M Run, 3rd 100M Freestyle, 1st 200M Backstroke; Jeremy Neuheisel: 1st Softball Throw, 1st 100M Wheelchair, 1st 200M Wheelchair; Michael Wingen: 1st Tennis Ball Throw, 1st 10M Assisted Walk, 2nd 25M Assisted Walk, 1st 15M Floatation, 2nd 25M Floatation.

Great Season!

Staff members, Candice Lee, Jodi Carlsgaard, Martin Pfotenhauer, and Tevan Fischbach “took the wheel” to give our students the opportunity to participate in the Minnesota Swim Meet, Goalball Game, and Forensics Competition.

Swim Meet Results: Courtland Collins: 4th 60M Freestyle (1:30.43), 3rd 100M Freestyle (2:20.75), 1st 100M Breaststroke (2:51.40), 2nd 400M Co-Ed Relay (7:11.22); Kelly Jorgensen: 2nd 60M Freestyle (1:10.44), 3rd 100M Freestyle (2:13.59), 2nd 100M Breaststroke (2:21.55), 3rd 100M Breaststroke (3:04.38), 2nd 400M Co-Ed Relay (7:11.22); Emery Long Crow: 5th 60M Freestyle (1:33.56), 5th 100M Freestyle (2:40.35), 4th 100M Backstroke (3:23.44), 2nd 400M Co-Ed Relay (7:11.22); Kendra Terkildsen: 1st 60M Freestyle (1:47), 1st 100M Freestyle (1:39.44), 2nd 100M Breaststroke (2:31.06), 2nd 400M Co-Ed Relay (7:11.22)


Forensics Competition: Courtland Collins, Kelly Jorgensen, Emery Long Crow and Jeremy Neuheisel presented their pieces with each making progress on their public speaking skills.

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. Courtland Collins (poetry), Malikhi Hansen (poetry), Kelly Jorgensen (impromptu), Emery Long Crow (poetry), and Jeremy Neuheisel (humorous prose).
More Staff Training
The School supports educational opportunities for its staff.

**Candice Lee**, Speech & Language Pathologist attended a seminar on *Practical Therapy Techniques for Persistent Articulation Errors* where she learned new techniques to help the students. Candice also attended a webinar on *How to Treat Childhood Apraxia*.

**Beth Lopes and Lela Holcomb**, Instructors, attended a workshop on *Designing & Aligning Instruction for Students with Cognitive Disabilities* where they learned how to create lesson plans to meet the needs of a student’s ability level. Lela also attended the South Dakota Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference.

**R. Lee Ginsbach**, Business Manager, attended *Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)* convention and trade show to help him stay abreast of the changes in technology in the areas of vision and deafness.

**Dr. Marva Gellhaus**, Certified Low Vision Therapist, and **Jane Mundschenk**, Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor®, attended *PRI Interdisciplinary Integration Conference* where they learned about how a visual impairment impacts the body as a whole. Jane also attended the *North Central Orientation & Mobility Association Conference* and the *National Science Teachers Association Conference*.

**Indira Dillon**, Outreach Vision Consultant, attended the *Council of Schools for the Blind Outreach Forum* where she was able to network with other professional and share ideas about how to better serve children who are blind or visually impaired.

**Jeanie Schmidt**, Intervener for a deaf/blind student, attended a seminar on *Ethical Decision Making in a School Setting* to learn more about help those students that use an interpreter.

Transition Week

(Expanded Core Curriculum: Career Education/Transition and Self-Determination Skills)

By Dawn Backer, SDRC Director

The SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind Transition Week concluded and was a success! Eleven students participated in activities geared to learning about the world of work. One of the activities included working with the Ramada Limited hotel. They allowed the students to work in the hotel for two days, and each student was teamed up with another employee to learn and be instructed in how to perform a variety of jobs. Another activity included teaching the students interviewing techniques and then they participated in mock interviews with local employers at a luncheon sponsored by the Sioux Falls Business Resource Network (BRN). A community service project was incorporated and developed this year. The students helped prepare a meal and serve it to over 350 guests at the Banquet. Giving back to the community by helping serve guests at the Banquet also helped the students share an amazing experience with each other. This activity also simulated jobs in the restaurant industry. Evening recreational activities included going to Wild Water West Water Park and fishing. The students felt one of the best experience was an afternoon at Handy Riders, a horse therapeutic riding stable. The event turned out to be empowering for the students. The goal for Transition Week this year was to build empowerment and self identification through work, community involvement, and recreation in a fun and active week. The goal was achieved through exceptional opportunities and developed social and professional skills in the students.
Kids Against Hunger

Students in Coach Bob McLaughlin and Mrs. Janel Ludwig’s class this summer enjoyed donating time with the Kids Against Hunger Program packaging over 1500 meals to feed families around the world and around the corner.

Quinn was sure he could “catch” Grandma Cecila

Winner of Air Hockey Tournament
Zach Cordier took home 1st place
Mason Ivers received 2nd place

A drawing made by Chaz Blue Thunder this summer
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 Area

Independent Living Skills

Expanded Core Curriculum:

Assistive Technology
Expanded Core Curriculum Areas
Compensatory Academic and Sensory Efficiency Skills
Expanded Core Curriculum Areas
Recreation & Leisure and Social Interaction Skills
HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR PIONEER?
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