Preparing students to step forward with confidence and a vision of lifetime success

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 23 through Jan. 04  **Christmas Break**
Jan. 05  **Students Return**
      Dorms open at 1:00 PM
Jan. 06  **Classes Resume**
Jan. 17  **Homegoing**
      Classes dismiss at 12:10 PM;
      Dorms close at 1:00 PM
Jan. 20  **End of Second Quarter**
Jan. 21  **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Jan. 21  **Students Return**
      Dorms open at 1:00 PM

Let it Snow...

SDSBVI will not close for inclement weather, even when local or surrounding schools have canceled. If local travel is restricted, day students will not be expected to come to school. It is up to the parents’ discretion whether to bring their student to SDSBVI that day.

Thank you,

Mrs. Carlsgaard

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From the Principal’s Desk

Merry Christmas!

The Christmas spirit is in the air! Our elves, big and small, have been quite busy around here! Students are busy learning and implementing their new learned IPAD skills, completing science experiments, working on social skills and squeezing in a little fun here and there.

The big elves are busy making sure our little elves are ready to celebrate our Christmas season with a wonderful Christmas program and fellowship to follow. I cannot wait for the spirit to come alive for one and all!

Five of our professional teachers attended a conference in Providence, RI, to gain knowledge in the area of student literacy. Mrs. Geditz and Dr. Gellhaus shared their talents of teaching literacy to students who are blind and visually impaired by presenting and I am so proud of them. Way to go ladies!

Thank you everyone back here who are so skilled, talented and professional to keep the school day running smoothly for our students.

Have a magnificent Merry Christmas and see everyone in the New Year!

Mrs. Carlsgaard
SDSBVI Principal
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**Wellness Corner**

*By Mrs. Hulscher, HPE Instructor*

This month students were able to go to the YMCA for a tour of their facility. Students were excited for the opportunity to visit this fine facility. Later on we talked about the possibilities of students utilizing the YMCA for lifetime fitness purposes. Here at SDSBVI we believe in lifelong fitness of all individuals. Below is our Wellness Policy in regard to Physical Activity. If you are ever interested in joining us for a Health or Physical Education class, please contact Mrs. Hulscher at: Christy.Hulscher@sdsbvi.northern.edu

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Students at the SDSBVI receive regular physical activity through regularly scheduled physical education classes, adaptive PE classes as identified on the IEP, regular outdoor recess activity (K-6), and planned residential activities, including one hour twice a week at Open Gym and personal fitness activities.

Students at the SDSBVI also:
- participate annually in the American Heart Association’s “Move for Heart” program.
- participate in outings for ice skating (Holum Expo Center), roller skating (SkateAway) and classes/activities with the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department.
- participate in either Special Olympics (bowling, swimming, track/field) or athletic activities adapted to/for their visual impairment (swimming, goalball, track/field).
- participate in SPURS therapeutic horseback riding.

Mrs. Hulscher

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**Thank You**

Thank you, **Roseland Waldner** (Millbrook Colony), for donating two beautiful quilts to our school!

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**Student of the Month**

Congratulations to **Vincent Stuwe** for being nominated Student of the Month for December.

Vincent Stuwe

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**Thank You**

Thank you for donating two beautiful quilts to our school!
Coach’s Corner
By Mrs. Fischbach, Special Olympics Coach

Parents,

Between Summer School and the beginning of the 2013-2014 School Year, after our school forms had been sent out for the 2013-2014 school year, the State Special Olympic Office changed their physical forms for Special Olympics. As a result we did not know this until school began and you had already returned the older forms. At any rate, the new physical forms must be completed in order for the students to participate in Special Olympics. The State office was very nice and accepted our old forms for bowling.

A new physical form for Special Olympics form is attached to this newsletter. If you had a physical done at the beginning of the school year, all you should have to do is take the form to the doctor’s office to have the information filled out and then signed. Please make sure you fill out all of the required information that it asks for. Then return it to the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in our Special Olympics program at SDSBVI. The students really enjoy participating in the different activities and it gives them one more avenue to grow!

Mrs. Fischbach

Student Council Food Drive

The Student Council held a food drive for nonperishable items to be donated to Safe Harbor, a local shelter providing shelter and resources to people in family crisis situations.

April Dominick and Ms. Gerety delivered the donations to Safe Harbor on December 18.

Shirt Orders

Unfortunately, we did not receive enough shirt orders to meet the minimum order requirement, and payments will be returned.

For questions about payment returns, please contact Mrs. Krogstrand at mpkrog1@abe.midco.net.

There are still a few shirts remaining from our previous order. For sizes, styles, or other inventory information, please contact Mrs. Agnitsch at Diane.Agnitsch@sdsbvi.northern.edu
Care Packages for Our Troops

Kathryn Wagner organized a care package drive in early December for troops deployed to Afghanistan over the Christmas time.

Staff donated plenty of items for several packages, for which the Student Council contributed money to pay for the postage.

The collection box is filling up with everything from personal hygiene items to food and snacks.

Left: Students are showing just some of the items collected, along with a banner supporting our troops and wishing them everything from a Merry Christmas to a safe and speedy trip home. Other students expressed their thanks to soldiers for fighting for our freedom, or kept it to a simple “I like you.”

Combined PE Class

On Friday, December 13, Mrs. Hulscher’s PE group had the opportunity to play Beep Kickball with Aberdeen Central High School’s APE class at the CHS Gym.

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Mrs. Pat Geditz and Dr. Marva Gellhaus were presenters at this year’s “Getting in Touch with Literacy” conference. This national conference focuses on the literacy needs of individuals with visual impairments and was held in Rhode Island December 4 – 7 this year. Mrs. Geditz’s and Dr. Gellhaus’s presentation “Storytime and Best Practice for Educators of Students with Visual Impairments” examines the unique needs experienced by low vision students during story time and how to optimize the use of illustrations to accommodate those needs.

We are grateful to have their vast knowledge base and experience available to our students here at SDSBVI and throughout the State of SD.

Congratulations!

By Dr. Marjorie Kaiser, Superintendent

Lori Gellhaus began making tactile materials for the SDSBVI Outreach Program. This year she decided to create a tactile book for the first time. She entered it in the U.S. competition through the American Printing House for the Blind. Mrs. Gellhaus’ book “Look, Look Ladybugs” was selected to be one of only five entries from the United States to advance to the International competition.

The international competition is sponsored by Typhlo & Tactus (T&T) an organization dedicated to improving the quality and quantity of books with tactile illustrations available to young children with visual impairments in member countries.

Mrs. Gellhaus’ book advanced to the second round of competition which took place in Helsinki, Finland. This is a remarkable accomplishment, especially for a first book creation and we are extremely proud of her.

Dr. Marjorie Kaiser

“Look, Look Ladybugs” is an interactive children’s book created by Mrs. Gellhaus and features print and braille alongside tactile graphics.

The book journals the travels of two ladybugs.

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Elementary Group Speech Class

The Elementary Group Speech Class project for December was all about the Elf on the Shelf and the Gingerbread Man. Students had fun learning about different traditions and even baked their own gingerbread cookies.

Mrs. Schmidt is helping Jada Madsen prepare cookie dough for her gingerbread man.

Caden Chavez, Quinn Ossanna and Alex Repp are listening to Mrs. Mohn read the story of the “Gingerbread Man” while the cookies are baking in the oven.

Left: Blaine Jemming is shaping the dough to get it ready for the cookie cutter.

Above: Alex Repp is ready for story time!

Left: Trooper Angiolelli is enjoying his gingerbread man.

Caden Chavez is adding sprinkles as the finishing touch to his gingerbread cookie.

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Classroom Speaker

On December 5, **Dawn Brush** presented to Mrs. Fischbach’s, Mrs. Peterson’s and Mrs. Lopes’ social studies classes about the “Guiding Eyes For The Blind” program (GEB). Ms. Brush received training with her retired guide dog, Whimsey, and her current guide dog, Breezy, at GEB. The students asked thoughtful questions about the use of a guide dog and enjoyed seeing Breezy at work and occasional play at school.

Following are some guidelines by GEB to keep in mind:

**When you meet a person with a guide dog...**
- Guide dogs are working; please don’t pet or distract them while they’re in harness.
- Do not feed a guide dog. A guide dog’s balanced diet and feeding times are strictly monitored for good health and reliable schedules.
- Want to assist a person with a guide dog? Ask first. If your help is accepted, offer your left elbow. Please do not grab the guide dog, leash, harness, or the person’s arm.
- According to federal and state laws, guide dogs are allowed access everywhere the public is allowed, including restaurants and grocery stores.

**Did you know?**
- Guide dogs offer safe travel, mobility and greater independence. They also provide companionship for their blind and visually impaired handlers.
- Guiding Eyes clients travel to our Training Center in Yorktown Heights for a 26-day course to learn to work with and care for their new guide dogs.
- The dogs, training, travel costs, room and board, and lifetime support are provided entirely free of charge.

**Want to help?**
- Guiding Eyes receives no government funding. Our services are only made possible because of individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations that believe in our mission.
- More than 1,400 volunteers perform tasks that are essential to our work. Depending on where you live, you may be able to raise a future guide dog, foster a member of our breeding colony, or help socialize our youngest pups.
- Visit [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org) to learn more.

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*Dawn Brush, pictured above with her guide dog Breezy, presented on the "Guiding Eyes For The Blind" program.*

*Dawn Brush is introducing Breezy to Caden Chavez.*
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**Christmas Sharing**

Staff and students participated in our annual Christmas Sharing event on December 6th. Students made handprint snowman ornaments to gift to their parents and mugs filled with candies for the Lion or Lioness who has picked them for the Lions and Lioness Christmas Party. A big “Thank you!” to our Dining Room staff for preparing treats for the occasion.

Left:
Mrs. Carlsgaard and April Dominick are checking to see if the paint has dried enough to draw on the rest of the snowmen with markers.

Right:
Kendra Terkildsen is holding up her finished ornament.

**Aberdeen Lions and Lioness Christmas Party**

The Aberdeen Lions and Lioness Christmas Party was held on December 9th. Each year, club members select an SDSBVI student and gift from the student’s wish list. Thank you, Aberdeen Lions and Lionesses, for your continued dedication to our students!

Michael Wingen is checking out Santa’s beard during the Lions and Lioness Christmas Party.

Lioness Erin Gionvannini is presenting her gift to Lydia Enget.

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Student Council Christmas Outing
The Student Council enjoyed their Christmas outing to Ruby Tuesday on December 13.

Red Kettle Bell Ringing Campaign
On December 16, the Student Council and Principal Carlsgaard rang bells in front of Kessler’s grocery store for the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Bell Ringing Campaign. The Salvation Army has set a goal of $195,000 for the Aberdeen campaign. Good job, Student Council, for being part of this community fundraiser!

Jordan Harkless, Michael McMillen, Dale Aman, Jordan Houseman, Danielle Vincent and Zach Cordier are enjoying themselves while waiting for their food.

Below: Marcus Van Dam and Jordan Houseman are glad for this week’s mild weather, after the wind chill temperatures of 47 below in the previous week.

Jordan Harkless and Courtland Collins are ringing bells to entice donations.

Michael McMillen and Kendra Terkildsen are spreading some Christmas cheer to Kessler’s patrons.

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“We Are Santa’s Elves”

Here are just some of the highlights of this year’s Christmas Program, “We Are Santa’s Elves,” which was held on December 19th.

Thank you, Mrs. Heier, for organizing the program!

Kendra Terkildsen and April Dominick are presenting their duet, “Diamonds in the Night.” Well done, ladies!

Principal Carlsgaard is congratulating Vincent Stuwe, who received Student of the Month for December. Congratulations!

Looks like Henry Johnson is having a lot of fun with Mrs. Mohn!

Santa’s Elves are giving a hearty rendition of the song “I’m Gettin’ Nuttin’ For Christmas.”

Quinn Ossanna is greeting family in the audience, while Trashawn Howard looks on.

Right: Hailey Heintzman is ready for the program to begin!

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Cup Stacking

On December 17, Northern State University students came over to help with a cup stacking activity, which helps students gain agility, quickness and concentration skills.

Tylor Killspotted and Kendra Terkildsen are racing to see who will finish first.

Don’t Forget!

We continue to collect Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education, as well as Ken’s and Kessler’s receipts.

Check here for participating products:
http://www.boxtops4education.com/products/participating-products
http://www.labelsforeducation.com/earn-points/participating-products

Follow us Online!

Don’t forget to check our website for more information and the latest updates at http://sdsbvi.northern.edu/

You can also look us up on Facebook and Pinterest now. Reading a hard copy? Check the bottom of our website for the links.

YOU TUBE... COMING SOON

SDSBVI neither endorses nor sponsors community organizations or their activities represented in this document; the distribution of this material is provided as a community service.
APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
800 E. I-90 Lane * Sioux Falls, SD 57104 * Tele: 605.331.4117 * Fax: 605.331.4328
FORM A
Revised 08/2012

ATHLETE INFORMATION

Athlete Name (First / Last): __________________________________________
School/Delegation Name: ____________________________________________
Head of Delegation: ________________________________________________
Sex: ☐ M ☐ F Birth date: (MM, DD, Year) ______________________________
Athlete Mailing Address: ____________________________________________
Athlete Telephone: ___________________________ Athlete E-Mail: __________
Ethnicity: ☐ White ☐ Native American ☐ Black/African American ☐ Hispanic ☐ Other: __________

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name (First / Last): __________________________________
Parent/Guardian Mailing Address: ____________________________________
Telephone: ___________________________ E-Mail: _______________________

HEALTH INSURANCE & EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Health/Accident Insurance: ___________________________ Policy Number: __________
Emergency Contact Person: ___________________________ Emergency Contact Telephone: __________

PHYSICAL EXAM – TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN

Examination date: ________________________________________
This physical is “good” for: ☐ 3 Years ☐ 2 Years ☐ 1 Year

Physician signature: ___________________________________________
Print physician signature: _______________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
Telephone: ___________________________

Does Athlete have Down Syndrome? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, have x-rays of the C1-C2 vertebrae been taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Date of x-ray: ___________________________

Is the athlete clear of Atlantoaxial Instability? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Date of last tetanus: ___________________________

Allergies: ☐ General ☐ Medical ☐ Food ☐ Insect/sting
Describe allergies: ______________________________________________
Current medications and dosages:
(1) ______________________________________________________________________
(2) ______________________________________________________________________
(3) ______________________________________________________________________
(4) ______________________________________________________________________

Check All That Apply:
Heart disease/defect/high blood pressure
Chest pain
Seizures/epilepsy/fainting spells
Diabetes
Concussion or serious head injury
Major surgery or illness
Heat stroke/exhaustion
Visually impaired/contacts/glasses
Blind
Hearing impaired
Deaf/complete hearing loss
Bone or joint problems

Identify all diagnosis/conditions that SOSD should be aware of in advance of this athletes participation:
PARENT AND/OR GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION / MEDIA RELEASE / HEALTHY ATHLETE RELEASE

I, on my own behalf or as the undersigned parent and/or legal guardian of the above-named applicant (hereafter referred to as the "Entrant"), hereby request permission for the Entrant to participate in Special Olympics programs. I acknowledge that Special Olympics will screen all entrants using the Sex Offender Public Registry and understand that entrants listed on the Registry will be denied participation.

I represent and warrant to you that the Entrant is physically and mentally able to participate in Special Olympics, and I submit herewith a subscribed medical certificate. I understand that if the athlete has Down Syndrome, he/she cannot participate in the Sports or events which, by their nature cannot result in hyper-extension, radical flexion, or direct pressure on the neck or upper spine unless a full radiological examination establishes the absence of Atlantoaxial instability. I am aware that the Sports and events for which this radiological examination is required are equestrian sports, artistic gymnastics, diving, pentathlon, high jump, alpine skiing, soccer, soccer skills, powerlifting, squat, butterfly stroke and diving starts in swimming.

On behalf of the Entrant and myself, I acknowledge that the Entrant will be using facilities at his/her own risk and I, on my own behalf, hereby release, discharge and indemnify Special Olympics from all liability for injury to person or damage to property of myself and Entrant.

In permitting the Entrant to participate, I am specifically granting permission to Special Olympics South Dakota to use the likeness, voice and words of the Entrant in television, radio, films, newspapers, magazines and other media, and in any form not heretofore described, for the purpose of advertising or communicating the purposes and activities of Special Olympics and in appealing for funds to support such activities.

I understand that by signing below I consent to the Entrant to participate in the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Program that provides individual screening assessments of health status and health care needs. The Entrant has no obligation to participate and I understand the Entrant should seek his/her own medical advice and assistance and Special Olympics is not responsible for the Entrant's health.

If I am not personally present at Special Olympics activities in which the Entrant is to compete, so as to be consulted in case of necessity, you are authorized on my behalf and at my account to take such measures and arrange for such medical and hospital treatment as you may deem advisable for the health and well-being of the Entrant.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED ADULT ENTRANT, have read and fully understand the provisions of the above release and/or have had them explained. I hereby agree that I will be bound thereby and I shall defend Special Olympics South Dakota and hold it harmless from disaffirmation thereof.

Athlete Signature: ______________________ Date: ____________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________ Date: ____________

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT (CRA) INCOME CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

The Community Reinvestment Act holds financial institutions accountable to help meet the needs of their communities, including low- and moderate-income communities, through loans, investments and services. One of the ways financial institutions can meet these needs is through donations and volunteerism to agencies that provide services to low- and moderate-income individuals.

The information below is being requested so that Special Olympics South Dakota can qualify as a CRA eligible recipient of donations and volunteer services. By providing this information, Special Olympics South Dakota can qualify for additional funding sources.

Special Olympics South Dakota will treat the information you provide as confidential. The summary of information that is provided to financial institutions by Special Olympics South Dakota will not disclose the details you furnish below.

Do you currently utilize or qualify for any of the following services?

☐ Yes ☐ No Medicaid

☐ Yes ☐ No Food Stamps

☐ Yes ☐ No Rental Assistance (State or Federal Rental Assistance Program)

☐ Yes ☐ No Free or Reduced Lunch Program

If you answered YES to any of the questions above, you DO NOT need to provide the information requested below.

Is your annual household Income less than $44,800?* ☐ YES ☐ NO (if participant is a dependent, use the parent or guardian’s income)

**Annual Household Income** includes pre-tax income from all household members for employment, self-employment, child support, Social Security, BIA General Assistance. Subtract $50 per month of child support received and all child support paid.

Number of people in your household: ______________________